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January

1904

VICK'S FAMILY MAGAZINE



Dansville, N. Y. VICK PUBLISHING CO. Rochester, N. Y.

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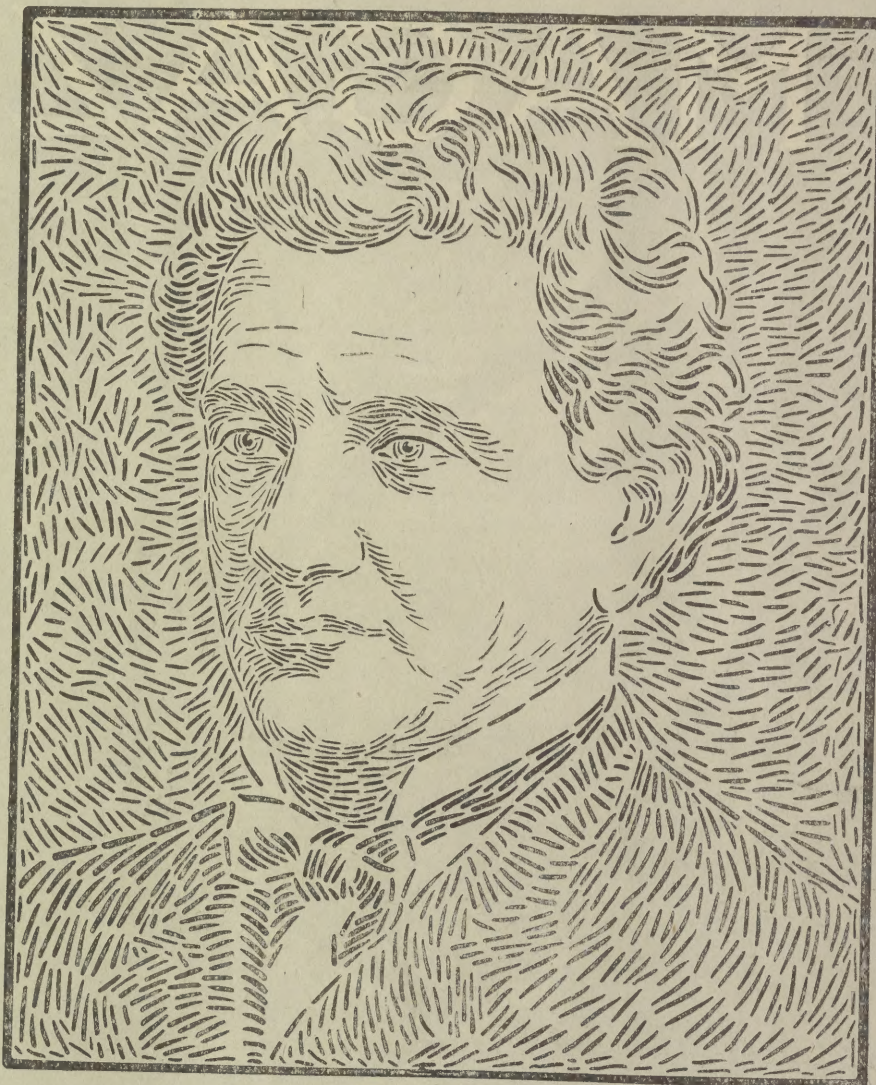
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January, 1904

The Japan Snowball.

It is more than half a century since this beautiful shrub was introduced into England, and more than twenty-five years since it was brought to this country, but it is yet comparatively unknown, and seldom seen in common cultivation. It is a native of both China and Japan, and though first found in the former country, it is now commonly known as the Japan snowball.

The bush does not grow as tall as the old-fashioned snowball, *Viburnum opulus sterile*, being usually six to eight feet high, and compact in shape. In the blooming season it is covered from the ground to the tips of the highest branches with masses of the pure white blossoms, as if a late snowstorm had passed over the bush, scattering big flakes.

The foliage of the Japan species is more dense and much handsomer in appearance than that of the older species. The leaves, instead of being three-lobed and coarsely toothed, are ovate or obovate, with abrupt point and small teeth. The shrub takes its botanical name, *Viburnum plicatum*, from the rough or wrinkled surface of the leaves, which look as if folded in creases or plaits. In early summer the leaves are olive green, becoming very dark later in the season, with purplish-brown or bronzy margins. The prettily-creased or plicate leaves are very handsome, and make the bush attractive even when it is not in bloom.

The individual blossoms of the Japan snowball are somewhat larger than the old sort and are a purer white. The balls or clusters are borne on short side shoots and are not pendulous like the old-fashioned kind. They are about as large as the common kind, though sometimes inclined to grow smaller toward the ends of the branches. Often as many as twenty balls are borne on a branch eighteen inches long.

The plants sometimes blossom when only three feet tall, and are covered with the graceful, soft, white, fluffy balls. They bloom a little later than the common kind; having rather more substance to them, they last longer on the bush and are also more desirable for cutting. Grouped with the old-fashioned crimson peonies, they produce a beautiful effect.

The Japan snowball is not only an extremely handsome shrub, superior in every respect to all other species, but it is not troubled with any insect pests. Those who have struggled with the aphids which infest the common snowball, will appreciate the fact

that the Japanese species seems to be immune from this trouble which curls and twists the leaves into ungraceful shapes and renders the bush anything but ornamental. Another commendable feature is that the bush does not require pruning.

This species of snowball is not only fine for planting on the lawn, but is particularly recommended for

tive shrubs for all but the coldest climates. Its many good qualities commend it for general cultivation, and it should entirely supersede the common, old-fashioned kind.

Florence Beckwith.

A Floral Window.

(A prize-winning article in our late contest.)

Last season, when too late, I sadly wanted a box of flowering bulbs for winter blooming, so the past fall I started early and now have a good variety,—tulips, freesias, allium, crocus, snowdrops, hyacinths, narcissus, and oxalis—white, red, pink, and mammoth yellow. An Easter lily also, is in a flourishing condition, as well as a Chinese lily—the latter in a quaint foreign-looking dish—full of pretty beach pebbles, and water.

In a sunny window I have put up a shelf about four feet long, that holds my bulb box, with room at each end for small pan of ferns. These fern pans are literally pans, bread pans, nine inches long, by five wide, and about four deep. There are holes punctured in the bottom for drainage, and small corks screwed to the four corners of each, serve as legs. A coat of oak stain, applied rather thin turned them gold color. They were filled with charcoal, wood mold, sand, and good loam, mixed, and then small ferns, pitcher plants, and all sorts of woodsy things were planted and in addition a running vine is placed in the centre of each—yellow jessamine in one, and a tropæolum in the other.

To furnish support for the vines I have put woven wire (ordinary chicken-house wire) nine inches wide, from each end of the shelf up to a light framework at the top of the window, in the center of which hangs a fancy pot filled with water-lily begonia. I have draped a long scarf of cream and gilt Japanese crepe over the hook that holds the hanging pot, and it falls in irregular folds over the top of the woven wire support. A long scarf of the same drapes the shelf, under which stands the small table holding the Chinese lilies.

It all makes a pretty addition to the room, and is nothing but what any woman can have, if she is at all handy with a hammer and saw, and does not mind pounding her thumb nails, or skinning her knuckles, for I made every bit of mine, from sawing, planing, and staining the shelf, to putting up the wire, and the long hook for the hanging pot and fixing the fern dishes—and my last blood-blister is almost well, too!

—Mary Lewis.



JAPAN SNOWBALL.

the cemetery. It is not very particular as to location. If given a rich soil it will flourish for years without special care, though responding gratefully to proper attention. It is considered perfectly hardy without protection, even in the New England states, and it certainly is so in Rochester; it is, however, noted as being "winter-killed" at the Canadian Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Ontario.

Taking everything into consideration, the Japan snowball is one of the most desirable hardy, decora-

Two Simple Edgings for Gardens

By Mrs. Maurice Perkins.

(Winner of Third Prize in Our Late Contest.)

I HAVE found in my rather long experience that the question of edgings for borders in gardens where there is a necessity for economy of money or labor, is somewhat difficult. An edging should not be unsightly, it should last at least a few years, and should keep the earth,—the precious garden earth—from escaping after every rain. My garden for a good many years was edged with box, which is undoubtedly the best and most beautiful material for the purpose, but it needs to be set every six or seven years at least. It winter kills in severe climates, and to be kept in good order should be covered by two boards nailed together making a long pent house. But this is expensive, must be put on and off at just the right time, and if the box is rather too high the boards kill the plants where they touch it.

My garden is seventy-five feet long, and is arranged in two rather wide borders running its whole length. Just in the middle, these long straight borders recede a little, making a round bed about eight feet in diameter half way down the garden. This round bed was edged with box, which was always in a straggly condition, partly from being allowed to get too high and dying off at intervals, and partly because the things that filled the bed overflowed, from their nature, and lying on the edging killed it. Some time ago therefore I determined to make a change. I took bricks of good quality and set them edgewise, half way down in the ground, hammering the earth firmly as it was filled in. It took about seventy-five bricks to edge a bed of the size I mention, and they last three or four years, only requiring a little hammering down in the spring, and here and there a new brick. Its appearance is delightful; the pale red tint goes with everything and the plants may overflow at their pleasure and do no harm. Two things are necessary; the bricks must be good brick, well burned, and the earth must be well hammered in around each one.

The second edging is made of cobble stones of differing sizes. If cobble stones cannot be had, any stones of irregular shape, and about the size of a large cobble stone will do. They are laid in the ground half buried; it is not necessary to hammer the earth in this case. At first this edge looks very bare, and one might reject it as coming in the category of the clamshell edging, but with a little, very little patience it becomes a most lovely sight. Small

plants that are lost in the wide borders here find a comfortable home, and may spread into the pretty irregular masses that make a garden border so charming. There are various perennials that make a permanent lodgement here; the beautiful little *Campanula trachelium* which grows in large round tufts, never more than fourteen inches high, and covers itself all summer with its exquisite violet bells. The Mouse Eared Chickweed. (*Cerastium tomentosum*), which grows out and in between stones, always pretty from its blooming time—a mass of silvery white—to the fall with its pretty gray foliage. Little low Iris establishes itself here, and various of the Sedums, without which no hardy garden is complete. But it is not only the hardy growths that beautify this humble edge; I have *Portulaca*, *Dianthus*, *Lobelia*, *Gypsophila muralis* (sometimes I



A COBBLE STONE EDGING.

believe called Baby's Breath) Sweet Alyssum, and any other low-growing, pretty thing I fancy. This edge has been in place fifteen years and has not needed a touch. It takes the place of a long, narrow rock garden, and is a very lovely sight. My border is towards the north, and as I sit on my garden bench, I am charmed with the ripple of color, seventy-five feet long. A great clump of the *Sedum spectabile* stands in the angle of the border, always beautiful with its noble, regular growth and the exquisite flat flower clusters, pale pink and green in the bud, deepening into rose pink in the flower. Then comes a big tuft of Sweet Alyssum; as the plants grow seedy, I find seedlings, of which there are always plenty, and stick them in wherever there is a place, so that when I pull up the old plant, the new ones are beginning to bloom. Then there is a large patch of *Cerastium*, running over the stones and reaching out beneath the roses. Then a long line of the most beautiful *Portulaca*, mingled with *Gypsophila* rising above their sturdy stems giving an airy grace to the line without interfering in the least with the growth. Then Fairy lilies and other summer bulbs, then *Dianthus*, blooming now in great beauty. All the corner



by the curve is filled by the dark green, glossy foliage of the *Pentstemon barbatus*. Every garden should have this beautiful hardy plant. Its tall stems are strung with exquisite red flowers. On one plant about two and a half feet across I had fifty stalks full of blossoms. Beyond are clumps of *Campanulas*, *Lobelia* and the lovely *Sedum Sieboldii*, blooming late in the fall but with thick greenish gray leaves which are as beautiful as flowers. All these hardy things are of the easiest culture, taking care of themselves and growing under all circumstances, and making the garden borders beautiful at all times.

Spotted Callas at Easter.

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)

Although these bulbs are considered strictly summer bloomers, I have grown them during winter and had them bloom at Easter. About two months after the bulbs had been lifted in the fall and thoroughly dried off, I selected four of the largest and planted them two inches deep in a big pot. They were somewhat tardy about starting, but grew nicely afterward. They had very little sunshine, but by Easter each bulb was crowned with one of the dear little lilies—quite out of the ordinary at that season of the year.

Flora Lee.

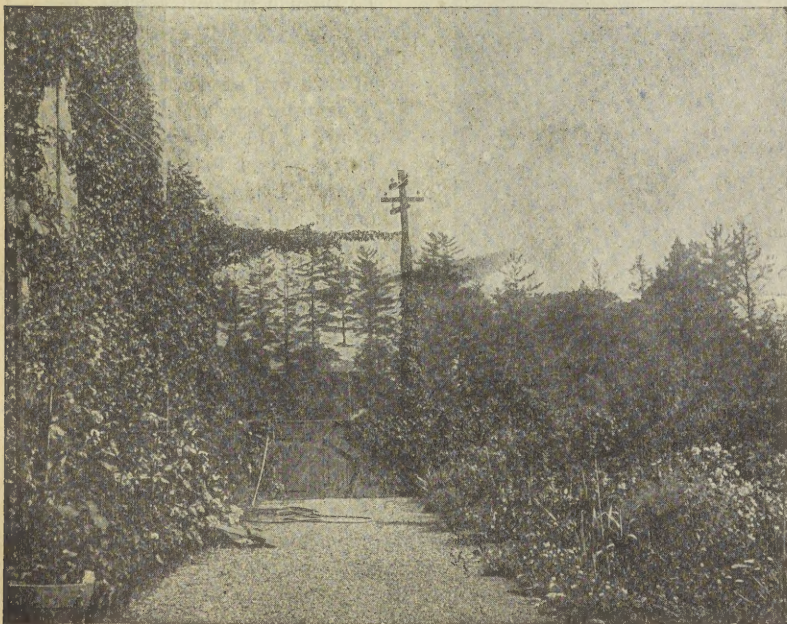
Combining Plants.

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)

Have you ever tried combining plants in the pots for the window? This year I have a pot containing a large umbrella plant surrounded by purple and green *Tradescantia*. Another pot contains a *Primula obconica* surrounded by green and white *Tradescantia* and another has a tall *Begonia* surrounded by Ivy *Geranium*. The *Primula* and the *Begonia* came in a Vick's Magazine collection received last year. Try a few combinations for your window pots and I am sure you will be pleased.

The collection offered by Vick's Magazine last year was received in August, and was not without blooms of some kind at any time during the entire year.

Eleanor R. Bartlett.



AN EDGING OF BRICKS.

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A Bit of Summer

Benjamin B. Keech.

Now the days are bleak and sunless, and the snow lies on the hill,
And the cold wind blows the frost on thro' the air;
But here's a bit of summer blooming on my window sill—
A dainty little primrose, sweet and fair.
It's a cosy little posy,
With its mellow tints, and rosy,
And the sunshine of its blossoms is a-shining everywhere.

While the days are dark and dreary and the wind is sharp and cold,
Then I watch my little treasure, growing there—
When I tell you that I care for it, the story's not half told
About this little banisher of care,
For its cheery, little face
Sheds a halo 'round the place.
And it brightens and it lightens, with its mellow colors, rare.

Oh, it doesn't matter whether days are gloomy, bleak and sad,
Or whether they are happy, glad and long—
The primrose keeps rejoicing, and is always bright and glad,
And sings to me a tender, happy song.
It's a rosy little posy
With its tints so warm and cosy,
And it always keeps a fellow's thoughts from going very wrong.

If the average human being, when his life is bleak and drear,
Would take a lesson from this tiny flower
And bring unto his face a smile, instead of frowning sneer,
The world would bless him every passing hour;
For a tiny blossom may
Keep unhappiness away,
But to smile or laugh a little is beyond some people's power.

THREE BEAUTIFUL SWORD FERNS

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)

NEPHROLEPIS PIERSONI, N. Fosteri, and N. rufescens tripinnatifida form a charming trio, each one of which far surpasses the good Bostoniensis in delicacy and beauty of foliage.

Piersoni is the newest one, having been first offered for sale last spring. Sometime before that I was fortunate enough to see a large, perfect specimen which was exhibited by the firm whose name it

variety the pinnae form full character at once in the regulation way, but they are finely and unevenly cut and slightly ruffled, giving a lovely effect. In fact, each one of these Ferns is so beautiful, that the only satisfactory way is to possess all three and so be able to enjoy their individual charms.

Flora Lee.

Crinum Pedunculatum.

The Crinums are not very extensively cultivated at the North, but those who have greenhouses, or even small conservatories, will find them very desirable and satisfactory plants.

Crinum pedunculatum or St. John's Lily, is considered one of the finest. The plant throws up a flower stem three feet or more in height, bearing from twenty to thirty pure white, lily-like flowers, which possess a delightful fragrance. The broad, light green leaves are from two to three feet in length, spreading out in all directions and making a very beautiful plant.

It is said that old

plants sometimes reach a height of five or six feet. After blooming, the plants can be cut back and set away under a bench or in a dry cellar. The blossoms sometimes appear in March or April, but the beautiful plant shown in our illustration flowered last August, and in November blossomed again. This fine specimen was grown by Mr. Hugh Dempster, an enthusiastic and successful amateur florist of Rochester. The beautiful foliage would alone render the plant a desirable one, but when the tall stems of pure white, fragrant flowers spring up, it makes one feel that nothing finer could be desired for the conservatory.

F. B.

Learned by Experience.

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)

The pretty little plant, Saxifraga, commonly called Strawberry Geranium, is a favorite with every one, but it is not every one who knows how to care for it. I had some small plants doing indifferently well, and I tucked them into the trunk of a palm. In two months time the whole trunk of the huge palm was covered with plants. I learned that this Saxifraga thrives in the shade. Then the soil that accumulates in the palm trunk is fibrous, composed of the fibre of the palm which falls into the niches formed by the cut off lower limbs. So in making a basket for Saxifraga I went to the canyon and got fibrous fern earth, and filled the basket, hanging it in a shady place. Saxifraga is such

a handsome plant, that it is a pity not to grow it into fine specimens. It needs no great amount of water, and treated thus it responds vigorously.

Farfugium grande is a choice plant many persons fail with. Its huge, waxy green leaves, spotted yellow, are very ornamental. In the first place it thrives in a sandy loam. Then it needs to be watered, not too much, but never allowed to wilt. After many trials I find it does best in a sunny room away from any direct rays. Mine I grow in a jardiniere where it gets plenty of light, but not direct sun. It should be watched, because red spider and black lice especially devastate it. Wash it in soap suds and rinse, if it becomes infested, but by washing the leaves and stems occasionally it can be kept free entirely. The variety with white splotches is very delicate, but both varieties will grow into fine ornamental plants with this care.

Anyone can have rustic baskets if one wishes. Cut willow twigs as big around as your finger, selecting straight ones. Cut them into foot lengths. Place nine on a board, half an inch apart. Across each end place one stick and drive brads, 2½ inch size, through the cross piece, into each one of the nine. Then build it up, log cabin fashion, nailing each four ends with brads, until the basket is nine twigs high. Then wire from each corner to hang it up by. Pack the inside with sphagnum moss, and in the center place fern earth, with ferns, and around them Saxifraga. Such a basket needs a shady spot. A boy handy with tools can make these to sell. The florists charge fifty cents apiece for them. It takes about an hour to make one, after the twigs have been secured. In raising ferns from seed, select fern soil. Go into the woods and get it, then sow your seed, keep damp, cool and shady, and in the course of time you will be rewarded with tiny ferns.

Georgina S. Townsend.



NEPHROLEPIS PIERSONI.

bears. Now I am the proud possessor of one of my own, though a very much smaller plant, of course. No wonder it has been given so many awards of merit—it certainly deserves them.

A well-grown specimen attracts one first of all by its depth and richness of green. Then we look at the leaflets,—which are so plentiful that they often overlap each other,—and marvel that they should be such a perfect reproduction, in miniature, of a regular frond. But these do not put in much of an appearance until after the large frond itself has unrolled; then the pinnae begin to unroll into the finely-cut, fanciful little fronds. These are quite long, so that they form a much wider frond than those of the Boston variety; but they are not as long.

Anna Foster is similar in manner of growth to Piersoni, but entirely different in effect. It is much daintier in every way; in fact it is more lace-like and delicate in appearance than one would imagine a Sword Fern could ever be. For the center of a dining table it is lovely, showing fully the delicacy of the fine, beautiful leaflets. These are quite far apart; but the outer portion unrolls in the same way as Piersoni. Which is the lovelier variety, is difficult to decide.

Nephrolepis rufescens tripinnatifida is beautiful in spite of its name, and on account of it, I suppose, is commonly called "Ostrich Feather." Unlike the former two kinds, it is not a new variety although it is often claimed to be, having only just recently been offered at all extensively. Both the stems and the veins of the pinnae are a light brown color and the whole is a rather light shade of green. In this



CRINUM PEDUNCULATUM.

TALKS ABOUT FLOWERS

By Benjamin B. Keech.

Among Favorite Shrubs.

WITH THE snow piled up outside and the floral work for 1903 about completed, we can at last sit down with a clear conscience and a floral catalogue and see what we should like to order for the coming garden. I don't believe I have ever talked about shrubs, and as this is a good time to discuss those excellent plants, let us turn to that part of the catalogue first. In the beginning I would say that shrubs are really as satisfactory a class of plants as any one can grow. They are hardy in all senses, and when once planted, require very little care. They grow and bloom quickly and well, and the blossoms of some of them are close rivals to those of tenderer plants. There is something about a robust, vigorous shrub that ought to appeal to everyone. Shrubs are probably the easiest to get along with of any out-door plants. But, although they do well with comparatively little care, they naturally do better when given a sufficient amount of food, pruning, protection and attention. As with other plants, cultivation tells; therefore cultivate. If I could have only one shrub, I think it would be a lilac. This is perhaps unjust to other hardy plants; but the lilac has really many good points to consider. It blooms at a time when blossoms are scarce; the flowers are beautifully made and almost unrivalled in fragrance. The foliage is neat and goes well with the dainty blossoms. The bushes can be grown in more ways than some of the other shrubs. Trim off the lower shoots and have the lilac in form of a tree. Leave them on, and secure a bushy, compact shrub.

A man who has a troublesome creek for a neighbor on one side of his land, is thinking of planting white and purple lilacs near its bank, and letting them go untrimmed. He knows of two yards where there are some tall, thick hedges made of lilacs; and maybe my readers can get a few ideas from these suggestions. The old-fashioned, tall-growing sorts are used; the little Persian lilacs would not do—or at least not do so well. These, by the way, are entirely desirable, and should be generously ordered this spring. A good way to grow lilacs in large grounds is to plant a number together in a little colony by themselves, where each can add to the charms of the other and give a more satisfactory result.

President Grevy is a very popular lilac which I suppose will be ordered more extensively when all people know that it has double flowers of a light lilac blue. Marie Legraye, large, single white; Rothmagensis rubra, red; and Ludwig Spaeth, dark purple, are good companions for President Grevy. In some places, at least, hydrangea paniculata grandiflora is better known than the lilac or many other shrubs; and it is perhaps unnecessary to discuss it here. Suffice to say that as a rule the hydrangea does everything claimed for it, and more besides. Blooms from July to September, and the large, white panicles are very showy. They change to reddish pink as age advances. This shrub grows rapidly and blooms the first season.

The different spiraeas are fine little shrubs, and I want to urge every flower grower to try at least three of them this spring. There are about a dozen leading varieties, and the person who can have them all should count himself well off. Set the plants in clumps by themselves, as advised for the dwarf lilac, or put them near the edge of a winding carriage drive. The spiraeas begin to bloom in May, and from then until fall can be depended on to flower continuously. The colors are white, rose, and crimson, and a bush in full bloom is certainly a worthy

ornament for the finest yard. I presume all of you have heard of the spiraea Anthony Waterer, but it is safe to say that this sterling little shrub is not found in every yard where it might be cultivated. Anthony rarely grows much over a foot high, and is compact and bushy in shape. The bright, crimson flowers are produced abundantly throughout the season, and a bush can hardly fail to attract attention. This spiraea may also be potted in a good sized receptacle and used on the veranda during summer. A good companion for Anthony, out of doors, is Arguta, which is rather dwarf and bears a large number of pure, white flowers. Billardi has rose colored blossoms, and so has Douglassi. But this last named variety grows several feet taller than the others.

The syringa is a shrub that deserves several good words spoken for it. The flowers are lavishly produced in June, and are pure white with golden



LILAC MARIE LEGRAYE.

centers. It reaches far above one's head—I have the old fashioned variety in mind—and can be trained into a pleasing, graceful shape. There is a dwarf variety and a golden leaved variety which should receive attention. Among other shrubs that bear white flowers, the Japanese snowball deserves to be mentioned. The old variety, Opulus sterilis is good, but the other kind, Viburnum plicatum is better. This produces more and finer foliage, and larger and richer flowers than Opulus sterilis, and is in all ways desirable. Blooms for Memorial Day, or later.

The different varieties of deutzias, weigelas and hardy azaleas should by no means be overlooked. But these as well as most of the others that I have named, bloom principally in the summer, and as some of you may be more interested in shrubs that flower in the fall, I will speak a word in favor of the althaea. This excellent shrub, known also as the Rose of Sharon, comes in white and red, and when

once set out, cares practically for itself. It grows gracefully erect, and is really one of the best of shrubs. Berberis Thunbergi has reddish blossoms and crimson berries which remain on the bush all winter. In autumn the small, obovate leaves turn from green to red, and add to the beauty of this handsome shrub.

Children and Flowers.

Flowers and children—they are quite similar and go well together. Both are beautiful—unless they are ugly—and can be trained in many different ways. Both require careful nursing and watchful care during babyhood; and when engaged in active growth, demand plenty of food, sunshine, and fresh air. If neglected when they require the most care, both will sadly disappoint, but if encouraged with extra love and attention they will blossom forth into exquisite beauty and sweetness. Sometimes you will find them blooming best in the worst places, and vice versa. However, it is generally true that the more congenial their home the better the flowers and children will be.

Since they go together so well, is it not the duty of those who can, to keep them together? Now is a good time to plan for the welfare of your flowers and children. Next summer take the boys and girls into partnership with you, and let them assist in the flower garden. If at first they do not seem interested, reward them for their work with money or its equivalent. In time they will probably realize that the best reward is the blessed companionship with the flowers and all out doors, together with the health and good spirits that come by one's exertions. But at the beginning a remuneration not worth so much will in some cases have to be offered. At any rate, at an early age try to instil into the hearts of your young people a love for flowers and all that is beautiful in Nature.

Perhaps if your child could have a flower garden to manage by himself, he would take more interest in it. Try this plan next summer. Give him a portion of the yard with the understanding that he is to cultivate it and keep it in good condition. Assist him when necessary, and give directions as to care and culture of the plants. However, boys will generally take more readily to a vegetable garden than to flowers, although once in a while you will find a case directly opposite. Some children would rather cultivate small fruit than either flowers or vegetables. Find out their preferences and be guided accordingly. Natural liking has much to do with results.

Of course, there are children who strenuously object to anything that looks like work. But "patience o'ercometh all things," even a naughty child. Exercise a large amount of that good quality, and make the hoeing and weeding as much like play as possible. Go out with the child, and work with him, now and then, especially when some part of the business puzzles him, or when the weeds get a start of the plants. Right here is a point that I would impress on your mind. Do not encourage a child to cultivate more ground than he can take care of. It is discouraging, even to a grown person, to have his work get ahead of him; and the child will learn to hate his garden if compelled to "stay in it all the time."

It—the garden—should really be a means of pleasure, as well as of profitable exertion. But a weedy patch of flowers is not conducive to a high interest in beautiful things. On the contrary a

(Continued on page 24.)

Through Fields and Woodlands

By N. HUDSON MOORE



January.

"Foot, Horse and Waggon, now cross Rivers, dry,
And Ships unmoved, the boisterous Winds defy,
In frozen Climes; where all concealed from Sight,
The pleasing Objects that to Verse invite:
The Hills, the Dales, and the delightful Woods,
The flow'ry Plains, and silver-streaming Floods,
By Snow disguised, in bright Confusion lie,
And with one dazzling Waste fatigue the Eye."

Some of the few treasures to be gleaned in a January walk, are the cones, still to be found hanging, a perpetual invitation to the seed loving birds that have bills strong enough to crack the stout shell that conceals the seed, and a

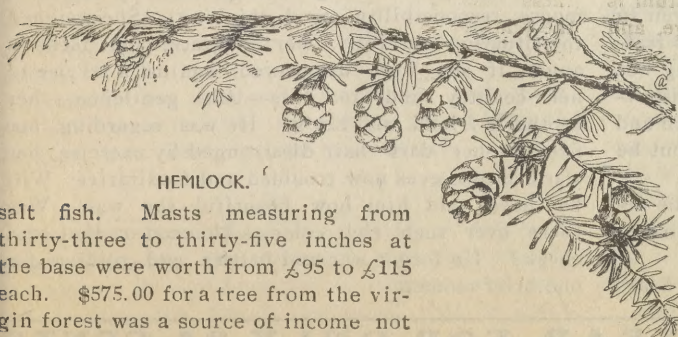


gratification to the human eye that rests chiefly on leafless trees. From my windows I look into the branches of a larch, or as it was more anciently called, tamarack tree. At all seasons of the year this tree is delightful.

It begins in February to put on, little by little, a faint tone of green. I will often forget it, and then look out some morning and see it standing there quite proud of its fresh color, and I think "the spring is coming." Little by little it advances, the sun growing each day warmer, till in May it seems to me the prettiest thing in the garden, a perfect fountain of warm, sweet green, beloved of birds that live in its branches the whole summer long. I note the first frost by the yellowness of its leaves, and they fall in a shower of gold till it stands as it does to day, quite bare.

It is at this season that are best seen the pretty little cones with which many of the branches are laden. They came in the spring, pink and purple tipped, and have grown brown and sere but none the less ornamental for all that. The chickadees, my constant visitors, find insects and eggs lodged under the cone scales, and pick them over carefully as a happy change from the diet of suet they get from the free lunch which is served on neighboring trees. The prettiest cone bearing tree is the Hemlock, with its small cones sprinkled over the boughs, and its bright green leaves with their silvery lining. This tree makes up in beauty for what it lacks in usefulness, since the wood is coarse-grained and poor, the bark alone making it desirable to man, for purposes of tanning.

The white pine, with its long drooping cone is one of our greatest trees, rising as it sometimes does, from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and sixty feet high. It seems a wonder how this noble tree has survived the cruel slaughter to which it has been subjected. While the New England colonies were struggling for a footing on this continent, before the birth of the eighteenth century, their two most valuable commodities, and those for which Old England was most greedy, were our pine masts and



HEMLOCK.

salt fish. Masts measuring from thirty-three to thirty-five inches at the base were worth from £95 to £115 each. \$575.00 for a tree from the virgin forest was a source of income not

easily to be surpassed. Although millions of acres of pines have been cut down by lumbermen who never take the pains to re-seed where they destroy, yet this destruction is not the gravest peril that menaces our pine forests. The forest fires which annually sweep over hundreds of square miles are the worst enemies, and these are caused generally by the neglected fires of hunters or lumbermen, or the spark from an engine. The awful extent of devastated forests which can be seen along the line of the railroads which traverse Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Canada, show only too painfully that the march of civilization is accompanied by wholesale slaughter. If the pines had only to contend against the lumberman it would not be so disastrous, since the tree has a fortunate way, by means of its winged seeds, of starting new forests. Birds also carry the seeds from one region to another, and demonstrate their useful as well as ornamental character.

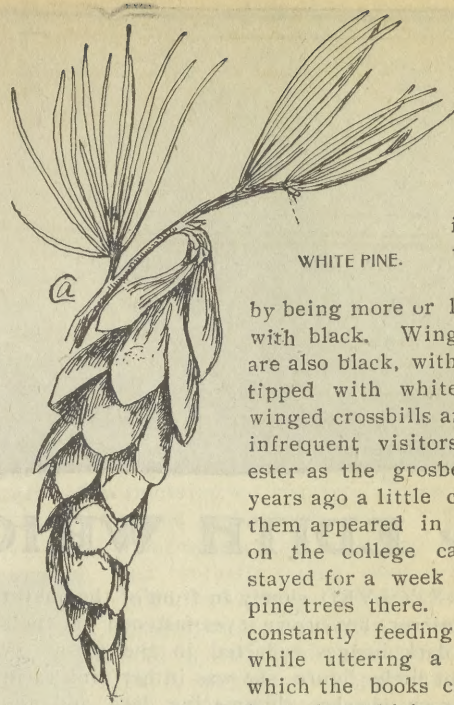
The pine grosbeak, a lovely creature washed with



THE CROSSBILL.

rose-red on crown, rump and breast, makes his home usually in the coniferous forests which stretch across the continent from Maine to Alaska. Occasionally he strays to less severe latitudes, and this fall and winter a small flock of not more than half a dozen, has been living in one of the Rochester parks. So seldom are these birds seen in this vicinity that it is a treat long to be remembered. Their food, when they leave the dark forests of their choice, is the berries of the mountain ash, beloved of so many birds, the sumach berries, and if they are present in quantities, rose hips and haws.

In addition to the grosbeaks, the crossbills dearly love cone bearing trees. These birds, with their queer crossed bills, are perfect wanderers, going when and how they please. The fixed laws which govern the migrations of other birds have no clutch on them, and when they find a spot which suits them, where food is to be obtained easily and in quantities, there they stay. Like the grosbeaks, the crossbills are rich in color, dark red on the body with brighter color on the rump. They nest very early in the spring quite regardless as to where they may be, quite contented in the small flocks in which they always keep. Beside the American crossbill, there is the white-winged crossbill, a showier bird than



WHITE PINE.

by being more or less marked with black. Wings and tail are also black, with the coverts tipped with white. White-winged crossbills are quite as infrequent visitors to Rochester as the grosbeaks. Two years ago a little company of them appeared in the spring on the college campus, and stayed for a week among the pine trees there. They were constantly feeding and all the while uttering a little call, which the books call "plaintive," but which seemed to me

quite cheerful. The females, as is common with many of the finches, comes under the head of a "sparrow" bird, dull olive above, mottled on head and back, and gray underneath. In all the flocks of birds of this tribe, the females exceed in number the males, there being often twice as many of the former as of the latter. When the purple finches first come in the spring, I frequently see flocks where there will be but two males, and half a dozen females. Yet in nesting time matters seem to be equalized, for they make devoted couples, and I have never noticed in the neighborhood any large number of "unappropriated blessings."



PITCH PINE.

Signal Fires.

I watch for sprintime, not along the hill
Where far-off pines are blue above the snow;
I find her tokens where the woods are still
And where the willows grow.

Beneath them yet the snow is lying deep,
Tracked by wee woodland footsteps soft and shy;
The long white ponds are silent in their sleep,
While still the days go by.

What message flashed from mountains far and white,
To them of days the nearing sun shall bring?
What hope has stirred their hearts, and bid them light
The signal-fires of spring?

For through the branches where the snow birds flit
Flames out the world's sweet hope in scarlet glow;
Spring is at hand, and I am sure of it;
The willows told me so. Mabel Earle in *Youth's Companion*.

Bills in This Issue.

We are enclosing bills this month to those in arrears and trust that we may have a ready response from all. You doubtless notice that these bills are made out at our regular Fifty cent rate, as our special Twenty Five Cent rate is intended only for those who pay in advance. We desire, however to give the greatest value for the money of any Publishing House in America and at the same time get our list, as far as possible paid in advance: therefore, *all*, who *return their bills* before February 10th, 1904, with *One Dollar*, will get their subscriptions extended *Four Years* from the date of Expiration, as it now stands on our books. This is a splendid offer and we would suggest that you accept it at once and add 6 cents for a Charcoal Art Print:—You will be delighted with it. We can promise you a handsomer and more helpful Magazine during the coming year than we have ever published before. Read our announcement on page Thirteen and look up our liberal clubbing offers on page Twenty-Three; you may find just what you want.



By EDITH WRIGHT.—Winner of the third prize in our recent contest.

SHE REVOLVED slowly in front of the quaint old mirror, her brown eyes fastened on their own dark images reflected in the glass. A quaint little figure she was in her pink satin gown, her rosy cheeks, shimmering lace and the dainty slippers with their heels perilously high. She curtsied low to herself, then blushed at her own vanity. It was her first ball gown and Peggy was lost in a wondering admiration. A dozen times a day she stole up stairs to surreptitiously inspect its unaccustomed beauty, dreaming over the anticipated pleasure of its first appearance.

"Tonight, this very night," commenced her monologue, "only yet a few hours before I start. And ah the dance and the grand ladies and gentlemen! I shall be so happy"—taking a few dancing steps and looking over her shoulder at the charming reflection. I wonder if the Governor will dance with me—or perhaps that young Secretary, who is reported to be so handsome.

Now Cousin Lisbeth said—(she broke off to smooth the satin folds) "'Twould stand alone for stiffness;" La but I shall be a wondrous fine lady! I am glad I am—am not ill favored, she said, blushing at her own words. Everything is perfection, even my pink reticule. 'Twill carry my fan and gloves. If brother Will could but see me—Ah! why did he go to fight the Britishers? Hateful things! She smiled saucily at herself and spread her shimmering skirts for a "curtsey," profound yet graceful, and then—

"Peggy, Peggy come down. 'Tis a sinful girl thee is with thy silly head turned by finery. Idle baggage, run to the hay-loft and gather the eggs for Chloe's baking."

It was her mother's voice and the dainty alluring satin was hastily laid aside, while Peggy slipped into her blue stuff dress. She was not vain or frivolous but she had a girl's natural love of ornament and pretty clothes, which her Quaker mother could not tolerate. She threw a cloak about her, for the days were nipping cold now, and slipping through the servants' quarters to avoid the owner of the voice, ran swiftly to sweet smelling mows of hay in the big red barn.

Let us pause a moment and inspect our heroine's family. Her father James Macey, was a wealthy land owner who took sides politically, with the British. He was furiously angry at his son who joined Washington's forces early in the fight, but Peggy, though little more than a girl, was said to secretly sympathize with her brother's cause, and on one occasion to have sent to him a bundle of "warm" socks knitted by her own pretty hands.

She was the toast of the country-side and a prime favorite with Governor Shaw, her father's friend. Tonight the big colonial house of the Governor was to be brilliant with lights and gay flowers. There was to be a grand ball and Peggy had received an invitation, sealed, crested, and written by the Governor's own hand. Her mother firmly refused to partake of so worldly a pleasure so the delighted girl was to go in the great coach by herself, with an escort of slaves, and stay over night with Madam Shaw.

Only a few hours more, Peggy was thinking as she

swung herself lightly up to the bays of fragrant hay. I shall be as fine a lady as any—I wonder where old Speckletope has made her nest. Yesterday I found it in the south corner.

Do you suppose brother Will would condemn my going, she mused. 'Tis no blame of mine the British be giving the ball—Now a plague on that creature—she must be on the other side. Peggy listened attentively; a silence—then a faint cackle! "In the loft! Well 'tis lucky I have not forgotten how to climb." How shocked mother dear would be.

She cast aside her long hampering cape and began to ascend the ladder. The loft was a platform of boards laid across the beams. So close beneath the roof was it that little light was admitted and the air was heavy with dust and flying particles. Peggy was agile as a boy as she climbed lightly up the ladder. Yes, there was the nest. She picked up the two eggs and was about to swing herself over the edge when she felt a strong arm hold her back, and a hand smothered her startled scream.

"Make no sound and do not struggle—I will not hurt you."

The words came in a low voice from a speaker whom she could not see. Peggy was not a Macey and a descendant of generations of fighters for nothing. She firmly repressed her startled impulse to scream and stood perfectly still.

"Have I your solemn promise not to betray my hiding place by word or act?"

Peggy made no answer—she was thinking. Her brain was not a great one but it worked quickly. They would miss her in an hour or so—by nightfall a search would be made. Why should she—a Macey—be frightened into silence by this braggart. She would wait—even if it be hours. She would not give up. He is a deserter, maybe, who thinks to frighten me into giving assistance, was the thought that quickly came into her mind.

"'Twould be a pity to miss the ball," that same low voice suggested, but there was just a note of—could it be laughter in it. No, she would not yield—her courageous soul cast aside the glittering vision of the ball. She set her teeth hard and composed mental anathemas against this voice. There was a long pause. The minds of both had abundant food for thought. Then he played his trump card which he had retained till the last.

"Have I your promise, Mistress Peggy?"

She started in surprise. Who was this braggart—this coward—this—this person? How could he not only know her, but also her name? There was a moment of severe conflict and then she yielded sufficiently to nod curtly. His arms dropped and he respectfully retreated a pace or two. Even in the dusk of the loft she managed to discern his features, unfamiliar but very comely. His clothing was ragged and dusty, his close cropped hair was disheveled; but neither fact could conceal a fine figure and an air of distinction. She waited a moment, but he did not speak.

"Well, what would you have of me, sir," she demanded, and then without giving him time to answer—"Who are you and why are you here?"

I have come because of something I have heard

from the whole country-side, and also because of what a few who know you and your family have said, and again because of what one person told me.

"Then what has the whole country-side been busy with, may I ask?" Who is this handsome rascal who speaks in tantalizing riddles, she wondered.

"Many tongues have said that Margaret Macey is the most beautiful girl in this hundred miles."

"Nonsense, you cannot flatter me," indignantly.

"I see that it is indeed impossible."

"Sir—you—I— Sir, what have those few people said?"

"A few have told me that you were a true Macey and as brave as you are beautiful, and the one—that one told me that your heart is true as steel to the cause for which I fight."

"And who is that one?"

"Your brother Will. He is my friend, he said simply." Peggy put out her hand in her generous, impulsive way, saying "Then you are mine, too."

"I will explain as quickly as may be," he said. "I left General Washington at midnight with dispatches of a most important and private nature, to be delivered to General Green with all speed. Ten miles from here I was run down by some British cavalry, my horse was shot and only by Divine Providence did I escape. I made all speed to reach this shelter, for a wild scheme came into my head. You are—Hush! don't move!"

Footsteps slowly came nearer. A negro entered, pitch-fork in hand, pitched up a forkful of hay and withdrew, accompanying his dragging footsteps to the sound of his whistling. The two happy and relieved, breathed again.

"'Twas but Joel," she explained "but I was all of a tremble. Tell me about your plans. Can I help you? I will do anything."

"You see, Mistress Peggy, I am alone, without a horse, in the enemy's country, and ten miles from my destination. These dispatches must go on, but even had I a horse I should be little better off. The ten miles of road and forest between here and the town will be overrun with British when they hear there is a 'spy' abroad." Peggy shuddered at the word. "Yes, for that is what I am, a spy. What a man, however, might fail to accomplish, a girl, and more especially a pretty girl, and most particularly the beautiful Miss Margaret Macey, who is going to town to attend the Governor's ball as an honored guest, might do.

"Peggy, will you take these papers and my honor in your small hands and carry them to their destination?"

A silence fell. The girl, impressed by the immense responsibility, stood thinking. She weighed the situation carefully, her disgrace, her father's anger if she were discovered, against a service to her country and to this—this gentleman—her brother's friend, and her's. He was regarding her fixedly—her dark hair disarranged by exercise, her warm brown eyes now troubled and meditative. Will had never told him how beautiful she was. Was there ever such rich color as bloomed on that oval cheek? He forgot war and battles and soldiers for one brief moment.

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At last she spoke. Her voice wavered but her eyes met his with a brave and steady light.

"Is there no better way?"

"It is the best and also the only way."

"Then I am ready."

"You are a brave little maid and I am glad to have met such an one. People have not exaggerated your beauty, nor did Will overpraise your courage and patriotism. I trust that you will have no trouble in carrying the papers, but you may meet British cavalry patrolling the woods. I rely on your ready wit and your winsome face in such an emergency. When you are arrayed for the ball—Oh that I might see you there and dance a minuet—hide the papers in your gown. Among the guests will be a certain Mr. Spottiswood, a retired naval officer. He is in our employ and may be trusted. Give him the dispatches and he will find means for forwarding them. Is it clear?"

"Yes, I understand but I am mightily afraid—oh shame to confess it! I am not as fearless as you think—I wish—I—"

"Yes?"

"I wish somebody were going, too. I feel like to burst with the secret. I can think of nothing else."

"When you need a subject for your thoughts to dwell upon; he leaned forward smiling eagerly—I would suggest that a certain poor soldier might be favored."

"Where are the dispatches, sir?"

"Oh yes, I have them safe enough but somewhat inaccessible."

He unbuttoned his ragged blue coat, disclosing a waistcoat fine and clean.

Can it be possible—blood even now is oozing forth. Peggy gave a cry of pity and winked back the sympathetic tears.

"You are wounded," she cried. "You did not tell me."

"Why, that is nothing but a flesh wound," carelessly, "'tis naught to bother your head about."

"You're hurt and it's bleeding yet. Oh, how cruel! When did it happen?"

Seizing from round her neck her own fine muslin kerchief, she bound it about him as best she could, still with an adorable air of half tearful solicitude and deep concern. The recipient of these welcome attentions seemed to thoroughly enjoy them. The touch of her hands was exquisite.

"'Tis nothing; nothing at all, sweetheart," he assured her waiving all formalities. "Here are the papers, a small package you see. Keep them carefully and God grant they be safe."

Peggy took them and put them in her bosom. Somehow, she seemed to know this man very well, considering she had met him but a half hour before and did not even know his name.

He was very handsome she thought, as a bar of light from the dusty window fell across his face—yes and very brave. Her heart thrilled in admiration for him, as she blushed and grew confused.

"I must go, mother will miss me. Where are the eggs," she asked, all in a breath. "I will tell Joel to bring you something to eat. He can be relied upon to keep silent. I trust you will not be overly anxious about the papers. I will do my best for our cause—yours and mine." She retreated to the edge of the loft and stood there in the faint light.

"God keep you, sir, she said softly, and bless our country."

"Amen," he answered reverently, and then watched her retreating form as she passed through the great barn doors out into the sunshine.

II.

The sun was sinking in a blaze of autumnal splendor, flooding the landscape with its radiance and color. Its vanishing glory fell upon a very perfect picture—the Macey homestead with its lawns

and terraces, its roomy barn and granaries, its broad surrounding acres, now cleared of the harvest. Down the wide flagged walk bordered by peonies, came a little group—a woman of middle age, clad in simple gray garments, a sweet young girl and a matronly looking negro woman. At the gate an old fashioned coach is waiting—it is cumbersome and uncomfortable but very grand for those times.

"Thee is to remember, above all," Mrs. Macey was saying, for she was the figure in gray, "that modesty of bearing is better than gewgaws and fine clothes. Think less of thy finery and remember never, never, Margaret, to speak first in the presence of thy elders, lest they think thee pert and forward."

"Yes, mother," came the very dutiful but entirely mechanical response from the young girl. She was busy with the strings of her bonnet and surely one's mind cannot be in two places at once.

"Thy proper and fitting place is at Madam Shaw's side. Do not dance when fatigued, and remember

of a flutter" said Peggy, with an agitated sigh, as the responsibility of her task came over her.

With a few reassuring words Dinah fell into a doze, soothed by the rumble and motion of the coach; but Peggy was painfully awake. Suppose, she thought, her nerves atingle, her ears strained for the slightest sound—suppose the news of a spy's escape should reach the authorities in time to send out searching parties that night. Not even the fact that she was the guest of the Governor would protect her against a search, she feared. What could she do, what would be done to her? Inexperienced, unused to responsibility and care, her heart was filled with fears and forebodings and her mind fraught with myriads of antagonistic phantoms. She gazed upon the passing landscape, the rich farm lands of her father, in silence. Her thoughts were not of them, her ears were strained for the threatening sound of horse's hoofs. The sight of Dinah, a picture of slumbering satisfaction, aroused her to a

vague and absent smile. Then the remembrance of that wounded man, her brother's friend, came to her. She saw him, handsome and manly—the fine gray eyes, now grave, now merry, the well poised head—the straight strong body, suggestive of grace and power. He had made some gallant speeches, with glances of admiration, yet she instinctively felt him to be a gentleman both brave and true, and her mind reviewed the interview again and again.

He is the handsomest man I ever met—except of course, Will; she somewhat hastily added. I wonder if he is as comely as cousin Lisbeth said the Governor's secretary is. Why here are the cross-roads! Oh I wish this dreadful ride were over!

The time passed, with now an interval of trembling apprehension and again one of dreamy reminiscence.

They approached nearer and nearer town—the road became more smooth, the houses and plantations more numerous, while the sun sank from sight and only the beautiful afterglow was left. Suddenly in the midst of a reverie, that sound for which she had waited and dreaded—the ring of horse's hoofs came to her ears. She sat erect, her hands grasping the pink lute-strings with all her might. The troop of British cavalry, for that it proved to be, quickly caught up with the lumbering carriage. The commanding officer came up, spoke to the negro driving, and then came to the window.

Peggy waited in an agony of apprehension; the blood throbbed in her temples and seemed to fill her head with a strange roaring. Then the memory of a kind, strong face with

commanding grey eyes came to her. She summoned her courage and her wits, and met the officer's inquiry with calm politeness.

"This is Mistress Macey, I believe?"—the brilliant red uniform inclined in a stately bow.

"You are justified in so believing. Can I do you any service, sir?" Peggy had full command of her faculties now and she knew that a pretty face would work wonders with those gay officers. So she smiled and dropped her eyes and then looked up again coquettishly. It was all as she had anticipated. A spy had in some way,—such monstrous carelessness—escaped, so the gallant officer said, and he was detailed to search all houses, and all carriages passing through a certain district.

"It is most unpleasant work—this detaining travellers, but when they prove to be as beautiful as you, Mistress Macey,—and a smile and low bow completed the compliment.

"But I am going to the ball given by Governor Shaw tonight, and being a little tardy, I pray you not to detain me. 'Tis a most shocking breach of

(Continued on page twenty-eight.)



"She revolved slowly in front of the quaint old mirror."

not to romp through the minuet like a silly child."

"Yes mother," very absently.

"Joel has thy gown, thy gloves are in the pink satin bag. Thee is prudent to carry it. Yes, thy bonnet will do very well. Now mind thy manners."—a kiss—"and Peggy don't forget"—her voice was lost in the distance as the coach rumbled away. Peggy and the black maid were inside and Joel and the escort mounted behind.

Who can tell of the strange tumult, half fear, half joy, that filled Peggy's heart. She was a most bewitching picture in her long beaver travelling cloak, her big bonnet framing the winsome face, and in her tightly clasped hand she carried the pink silk bag. No need for her mother to caution her concerning it, for she would guard it as a priceless treasure. Between the glittering folds lay a pair of long white gloves that had come from over seas, and a little roll of papers closely written in cipher.

"Does yo' like it, honey?" the comfortable looking colored woman asked as she sank into the soft cushions with a chuckle of satisfaction.

"Oh mammy, 'tis mighty fine, and, and, I'm all

FOR THE CHILDREN

Why Fritz Dislikes the Postman

By Mary H. Coates
Winner of the second prize in our recent contest

YES, MY name is Fritz. The boys in our block call me a common little yellow cur; but Mrs. Wright says I am a tan terrier, and that my coat is black lace over yellow satin; and she ought to know! Perhaps she does flatter me, for I am very good to her.

You see, when Mr. Wright brought me here he said: "Fritz, this is your home, and this lady is your mistress. She is quite deaf, and I want you to take good care of her."

I think I do, too. At any rate, I am busy all day long keeping stray cats out of the yard, looking after peddlars and bill-distributers and watching for callers. I tell her when the baker comes, and keep an eye on tramps and listen all night long for burglars and fire alarms.

Once, Mr. Wright went fishing and left my mistress and me alone for the night, and at about one o'clock I heard the fire bells and saw a blaze only two blocks away. I bounded upon the bed and barked just as loudly as I could in her ear.

"Mercy me! Fritz, is it a burglar or a fire?" she asked.

"It is a fire and a big one, too!" I barked, for it was the box factory and made a fine blaze.

There comes that postman! I know his quick brisk step; besides, he always comes along just after the freight-train passes. Queer fellow, that postman is. I believe he doesn't do another thing but carry letters and papers around. Where he gets so many is a mystery to me; and the way he pushes them through the letter drop in the door and hurries off does irritate me. I've scolded him time and again and told him that I don't want them left here; but he pays no attention to me. Well, I tear them up every chance I get; but I came nearly getting into a scrape for doing that not long ago. You see, when everything is quiet, or I have any spare time, I work out in the kitchen garden. That's the worst job I have, a perfect puzzle, too; for the gophers don't care to tunnel in any place except where the vegetables are; and if I don't catch them my mistress is not pleased; and if I dig up the plants while chasing the gophers, then she isn't pleased either!

Anyway, I was very busy there one morning hunting a gopher and paused a moment for breath, when I heard the train whistle, and then the postman coming up the walk. Mrs. Wright ran and so did I, but she got there first and picked up the letter. She tossed the envelope to me, and while she read, I tore the cover into bits. Then, my mistress waved a strip of paper before me and said:

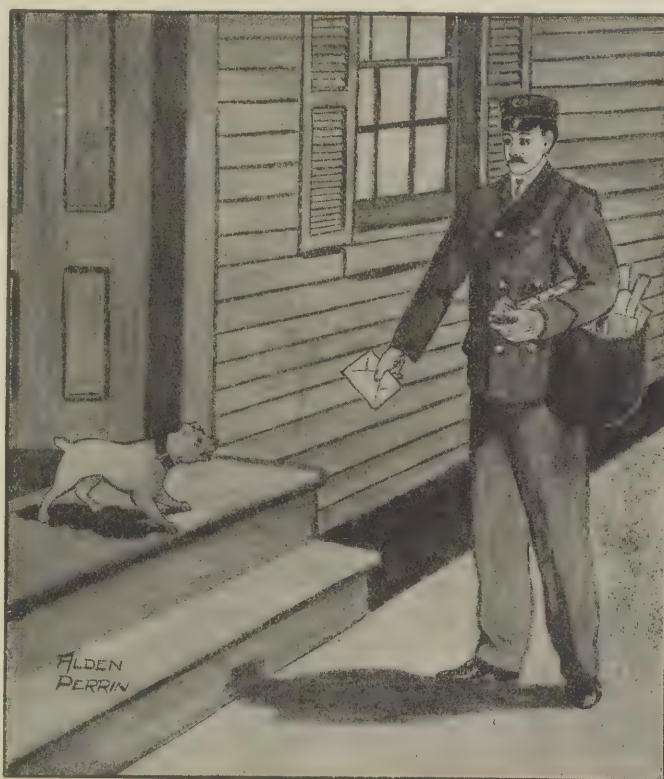
"A valuable letter, indeed, Fritz! Three hundred dollars that Jennie Osgood has sent down, for us to make the last payment on her new home! I'm so glad that she has it ready; for she says that the payment must be made by the first of the month or she will be declared delinquent and lose all she has paid; and the home also. And then, what would become of her dear old father and mother!"

Three hundred dollars in a thin strip of white paper! I know very well that paper money is green, for I have seen her buy things with it many times. Mrs. Wright must be growing blind, I feared; that would be truly awful, so I made up my mind to take a better look at that check as she called it, the first time I got a chance and see for myself whether it was money or not. She sat down at the desk and scribbled a note to Jennie, but put the check away in the flap pocket of her purse.

"Now, Fritz," she said to me, "we will take that basket of pansies out to the cemetery; and as we return we will call at the office of the Building and Loan company, pay the last installment on Jennie's home and get the deed; for she wants me to take it over and surprise the old folks with it."

We hurried off, and my mistress dropped her note to Jennie in the letter box on the corner, but carried the purse tightly in her hand. When we reached the cemetery she set the basket down, removed her gloves and cape and laid them on the stone coping, with the purse on top of them, but in plain sight, so there wasn't any chance for me yet.

We had a busy time. She planted pansies, and I dug several big holes; but I kept a sharp lookout for that purse. At last Mrs. Wright moved farther along on the plot and her dress brushed the purse,



knocking it off and the silver clasp struck a stone and flew open—but she never saw that.

My time had come! Slyly taking the check between my teeth I ran behind some shrubbery in another plot and tore it into three or four pieces; but what do you think! Not one dollar could I find in it. Not one! and my mistress had said there were three hundred. She was mistaken. Her eyes were failing. When I came back, Mrs. Wright had finished planting the pansies and was speaking with Mr. Wade, the grave digger. He promised to take care of our basket until we came for it; and we went down town on a street car, and alighted at the office of the Building company.

My mistress stepped up to the desk when her turn came, and opened her purse to get the check; but of course, it wasn't there. She turned red, then white, and looked scared as she searched all through the compartments, but could not find it.

"What can I do for you?" at last, inquired the clerk, having waited patiently for her to make known her business.

"You will sue me!" my mistress returned horrified. You see, she often hears the sounds but is so

deaf she mistakes the words—yes, and whole sentences sometimes.

"You mistake me," he politely replied.

"I must have taken it!" she screamed, supposing he referred to the missing check.

"O no, no! You do not understand what I say," he explained, thinking Mrs. Wright must be growing weak minded.

"Land me in jail!" she gasped, getting things completely mixed, and sinking into a chair, the tears rolled down her cheeks.

Mr. Hazard, president of the company, came in just then, and seeing my mistress, he came to her, and said:

"Ah, good morning, Mrs. Wright! You are promptly on time, I see. Miss Osgood wrote to us to expect you," and my mistress heard and understood every word, though he spoke in little more than an ordinary tone. He pronounced each word quite distinctly and not too fast.

"Good morning, yes, Mr. Hazard. But the check is gone. I can't find it."

"Come in here, please," he said as he opened the door to a small private room.

"The check is gone, you say? Please explain."

My mistress told him all she knew about it.

"You put it in your purse, and no one touched that?" he inquired.

"No one—er,—," she hesitated.

"No one," he repeated.

"Well Mr. Wade was the only person there and he didn't touch it! The purse was right before my eyes all the time."

"I think, Mrs. Wright, that we will consult your husband about it," and he told a clerk to telephone to Mr. Wright.

My master came in a short time, and after hearing the story, said to my mistress: "You've lost it, dear; but never mind. Perhaps we can find it. I will call at the bank and stop payment—if the check has not been found and cashed already."

My mistress and I came home; and she walked the floor, wringing her hands or sat in the rocking chair and cried all the time. I felt sorry for her; but she was mistaken about that piece of white paper. There wasn't a dollar in it.

Late in the afternoon Mr. Wright came home, looking extremely worried. He had called at the office of the street car company, had questioned every conductor and motorman, then he had gone to the cemetery and looked—even digging up the pansy plants, hunting for the missing check—as they called that piece of white paper. My mistress and master were puzzled; and talked till late at night, and settled one thing: we would mortgage our own pretty home to pay the amount due on Jennie's home. The next morning my master went down and told Mr. Hazard that we would get the money that day; but the president said he would allow three days grace; and hoped in that time to find the check or a clew to it.

The next afternoon a message came from Mr. Wade asking us to come out to the cemetery again. He had found those torn bits of white paper that I left in the shrubbery; and noticing Mrs. Wright's name on them had picked them up, and behold! by piecing them together they had the missing check again.

"What a bungler I am!" my mistress exclaimed, both laughing and crying. "But how could it have got out of my purse! That's what I'd like to know!"

(Continued on page sixteen.)

The COURAGE OF ELIZABETH

By Mary Lewis

A Prize Story in Our Recent Contest.

(Continued from the December issue.)

FOR THREE years we had waited. Then Adelbert's wife had decreed that they should travel. Having been informed of this by a former friend, we lost no time in packing our slender belongings, and had been in modest lodgings, in a nearby village, for more than a week. We had been on a reconnoitering tour about our old home several times, but it was only today that we had screwed our courage to the sticking point, and entered the grounds near the house. It stood gaunt and gray among the evergreen trees, with a big "To Let" placard tacked on the front door. Elizabeth's proud lips had curled scornfully at sight of this card, and she now referred to it as we stood before grandpa's portrait:

"Think of it, Alice! To let strangers in here—any cheap Jack having the money for a few months' rent is bad enough, but to rent one's relatives with the house! Ugh! it is like Adelbert Carmichael! He has no more family pride than a mule!"

My cousin hated mules. These words, spoken with much vigor by my proud cousin, had recalled me from the day dream into which I had fallen. I started as I looked at her. In that light, with anger making her features hard and unfeminine, her resemblance to the pictured face beside her was almost uncanny. The same keen eyes, the determined mouth, the square chin! Even the heavy brows were not wanting, though in a less pronounced degree. Verily, I should much rather have Elizabeth Cannody for a friend than a foe. She spoke again: "Look, Alice, the portrait nearly covers the door leading into grandfather's room!"

I stepped up to the landing beside her. It was as she said. The sliding door was more than half concealed. Indeed, by a casual observer it would never be noticed at all, since it was like the wainscoting of the walls of the hall, and a slight groove at the farther side furnished the only means of opening it. I pushed it open, and we stepped into a sort of narrow passage way from which opened two doors. One led into grandpa's room and the other opened on the back stairway. Grandfather had utilized the spare space as a closet. Even now the hooks were occupied by a few well worn garments which we both recognized as having belonged to him. An old dressing gown, faded and worn, a queer nightcap of flannel, worn when he had neuralgia, and some mouldy shoes, comprised the contents of the closet. At the sight of these well remembered garments we could not repress our tears, for they brought back too forcibly our happy childhood, and the form of him we had both loved so well.

But why linger over these sad memories? Enough to say that we visited each room in turn. We shed tears over the old broken toys of our childhood days found in dusky corners of the great garret. We laughed in the little room over the side porch. That was where Elizabeth had crawled out on the roof to rescue a pet kitten, and, losing her balance, had rolled off, landing in a crumpled heap on the grass, at the feet of the minister, who was just taking his leave after a social call, and which so startled the poor man that he gave a little backward leap, landing in his turn, on poor grandpa's pet corn, causing him to indulge in language more forcible than elegant. He apologized handsomely for it later on, but I think they were never quite so friendly afterward. I remember Elizabeth scolded them both for being in her way. She was spanked for being impertinent, while I stood by sniffing in the consciousness of being the good little girl.

It was growing dusk in the house and we made ready to go. One last look around, a kiss pressed on grandpa's pictured face, and we hurried down stairs and out into the fast growing darkness. The

wind was howling dismally, and some big drops of rain fell as we stepped off the porch. Elizabeth looked uneasy.

"We must run for it," she said. "I do not like this wind—it means mischief."

We gathered our skirts about us and scurried along under the dripping branches for a quarter of an hour, the rain coming faster and faster, and the darkness growing deeper with every step. Elizabeth stopped, panting, holding her hand to her side, and listened. Suddenly she turned. "Now be brave, Alice, we must go back and wait till the rain is over. We are on the old mill road! I can hear the water roar. We must have taken the wrong turn in the darkness—come!" she said imperatively. My heart sank within me. If I had felt qualms of fear at the emptiness of the old house in daylight, how could I pass the night there? I hesitated. I felt my hand grasped in the darkness, and Elizabeth urged me along quickly. "Hurry, hurry!" she breathed impatiently. "We shall be drenched!" I had no choice but to hurry then, for in her strong grasp I could do nothing. Rapidly we retraced our steps, and soon found ourselves on the porch we had so lately left.

Here my cousin left me while she entered by the window, as she had in the morning, and soon I was in the dark hall by her side. Hand in hand we groped our way upstairs to grandpa's room, ere we paused to take breath. My teeth were chattering like castanets, from fear and cold, as I dropped on the high-posted bed, still standing in its accustomed place. Elizabeth, though still breathing heavily from our run, was soon rummaging about the room in search of matches, but had to give up, after bumping into everything the room contained, in the pitchy darkness. I was crying softly, when she felt her way to the bed where I huddled in a miserable heap. "Now, dear, this will never do. Get up and take off your wet dress; here is grandpa's old dressing gown. Put it on; you will get your death in those wet things!"

"And you, Elizabeth; what will you do?" I asked, comforted a little by her strong, self-reliant manner, and stepping out of my sodden gown as she handed me the old dressing gown from the closet.

"I? Oh I shall find something! Why, here, the bed spread will do nicely. There, I am sure this is

better than being out in the storm. At all events we are dry. Come, dear, sit down here with me on the bed, and don't tremble so. Surely there is nothing here to harm us!" and she drew me gently to her side, and passed an arm protectingly about me.

We sat for some minutes in silence, listening to the drip, drip of the rain on the tin roof of the porch. I felt myself growing drowsy in spite of my fears and discomfort. My head drooped on Elizabeth's shoulder, and the drip-drip-dripping sounded afar off. I do not know how long I had slept when I was aroused by a soft: "S-s-h-h!" in my ear, and felt my cousin's hand over my mouth as she whispered softly: "Wake up, Alice! listen, but don't make a sound on your life. Can't you hear wheels outside?"

I sat erect, straining my eyes in a vain effort to pierce the inky blackness surrounding me, and listening to the crunch, crunch, of wheels on the driveway. They came nearer, nearer, till they grated against the steps. Then we heard heavy steps on the porch, and fumbling at the window. A slight crack as the catch gave way—a jar, as of some heavy body landing on the floor inside—then another thud and the window was softly lowered, and we heard gruff voices, hardly above a whisper, in the hall below. My heart beat to suffocation and I sat frozen with terror. Again I heard Elizabeth's voice, in a faint whisper, as she drew me to my feet:

"The closet, Alice—the closet—go quickly! I will pick up our things! Don't lose your nerve now, don't!" she implored me.

I set my teeth and slowly made my way to the head of the bed, back of which was the closet door. Elizabeth was soon by my side, and cautiously—inch by inch—we opened the door, passed noiselessly through, drew it shut, and I heard my cousin press the heavy hook into the screw eye, and knew we were safe, unless the intruders should accidentally discover the groove by which the other door was closed, which was unlikely. We sat huddled together scarcely daring to breath. We could hear the two men moving about through the lower rooms, and could catch a word now and then. They were evidently on a looting expedition, knowing the house was empty. It soon became evident that they were looking the old hall clock over. We heard the clang of the pendulum as they hit it in examining the works.

"O, O," I gasped. "Grandfather's clock! They are going to steal it!"

Elizabeth grasped my wrist and shook me slightly. They were talking, and evidently without fear of molestation, as we could hear their voice distinctly.

"This 'ere is right enough—all brass works—

(Continued on page twenty.)

DIAMONDS ON CREDIT



Turn Over A New Leaf.

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THE MOTHER'S MEETING

By Victoria Wellman

"God could not be everywhere—
so He made Mothers."



Mothers Meeting

Note: Letters requesting private answers should be accompanied by stamped envelope, and addressed to Victoria Wellman, care Vick Publishing Co., 62 State St., Rochester, N. Y.

Every mother's puzzles, burdens, and sorrows are sacred and receive deep sympathy. Any help or heartease would be gladly given to all.

Plenty of Time.

I hear you complaining, dearest,
You have ever too much to do;
Your temper is worn with trying
To make old things look like new;
You sew for the little children,
You mend for the rollicking boys,
You were never a shirk, so you fret and work
Till your life is shorn of joys.

If the day were longer, dearest!
If you never need go to bed!
But—Time goes racing by you,
Till the hurrying week has sped,
And your basket's overflowing,
And your tasks are never done—
Poor, weary friend! will they never end
Till the sleep of death is won?
It's Time you are needing, dearest;
Ah, yes! but there's time to spare,
If you'd let our Father carry
One end of your load of care
If you'd tell him all the trouble,
And ask from his tender hand
The gift of His peace, your pain would cease;
His way you would understand.

There is time for loving, dearest;
If we take the time there is,
And fill that up with sweetness,
Whatever beyond we miss,
Let the little frocks be plainer,
Let the dust alone for awhile;
Let the good man see how blithe can be,
His Home, in your tender smile.

Busy Mothers.

You have fancied how a Saint would look? You are dazzled by the halo round their heads—tokens of crosses

born ere crowns were won—and the shining whiteness of their new garments. Saints in disguise bend over wash tubs, tend sick children, wash endless dishes, darn heelless hose; such are often haggard, too weary for more than patient silence, not always like the ideal wife who slips on a white wrapper, wears a bow of ribbon in her curled hair, meets her husband at the door with a kiss, does no work at night to annoy him, but sings, plays games, or goes out with him! No, it may be she has been too faithful to others and her own hose are not mended, she pines for church but is too busy helping a sick neighbor, and her dress is neat but not pretty.

It is easy to say "raise large families" but in many homes circumstances force the mother to dread a burden cruelly heavy for body and mind. Help can scarcely be hired, illnesses come, and nursing exhausts the energy; financial matters depress; critics and gossips sneer. The mother of a half dozen is scarcely "popular" or a leader, especially when this number arrive in ten years! It costs too much to live now-a-days; let the advisers of good old time families reflect on the reasonableness of small families where circumstances turn mothers too early into remembrances.

Do sermons full of inspired thoughts touch and help those too weary, too sapped in energy by child-bearing, too saddened by man's selfish habit of letting her bear burdens, almost un-
ported by human sympathy? Sympathy, sweet, true, that is a sermon. 'Tis cynically and wittily said, "to find sympathy look in the dictionary." What does the weakest of us need, the most heroic crave so much as sympathy? Sometimes 'tis expressed only in a glance, a handclasp, a letter or a flower; sometimes we may give active expression and, having tactfully learned where the burdens gall most, can assist, and thus release tears and smiles together. Oh! the relief of tears to a dry-eyed woman who has been making a machine of herself, who felt God far, far away, who felt the so-called Christianity about her was mere hypocrisy, who craved the Charity of Sympathy.

Some of those whom I would love to cheer are too busy to read any magazine; so I appeal to you, sisters, you who know of these, can you not just read one hour to some one (perhaps help her so she can sit down to sew and listen), and give her a sense of your sympathy?

"No service in itself is small;
None great though earth it fill;
But that is small that seeks its own,
And great that seeks God's will."

How true! Read to her from some simple, heartfelt book or magazine. Once—and God bless her white heart beneath her colored face!—I was weakly indebted to my washwoman's sympathy for strength to keep cheerful. Sometimes a hymn sung, as she washed, sometimes a thought, at times a gay remark. It was unpaid service done in Christ's name. And such sorrows of her own! 'Tis thus saints are made.

Now we must consider that natures differ. We might rise above our cares due to our temperament, our optimism, our "cheerfulness" inherited or cultivated by a life not too hard. Another is naturally serious, conscientious, timid; the same cares craze such or cause melancholy. Some have "liver trouble" and are "blue" and grumble easily, yet are steadfast and thorough

when roused. Such need health more than advice, but even liver trouble does not spoil possible saints, though it makes life doubly hard. We must consider and never judge. Sympathy does not depend on judgment. We would misjudge and our sympathies would seem forced. "If we knew"—the doorstep work needs daily care. It is "popular" to be sorry for the heathen and work in some society, but homely to run across quietly to a saddened neighbor.

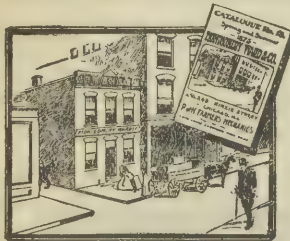
If we knew the cares and crosses
Crowded 'round our neighbor's way
If we knew the little losses
Sorely grievous day by day;
Would we then so often chide him
For the lack of thrift or gain,
Leaving on his heart a shadow,
Leaving on his heart a stain?
Let us reach within our bosoms
For the key to other lives,
And, with love to erring nature,
Cherish good that still abides.
So that when our shrouded spirits
Soar to realms of light again,
We may say, "Dear Father, judge us
As we judge our fellow men."

Yes, if we knew even the heart of our nearest and dearest—but seldom can we judge even their actions so truly that there need never be misunderstandings.

A New Year Message.

A New Year—'tis begun. A glance over 1903 for all of us, my sister readers. How little to me seems the work done when I meant to do so much; at home, everywhere, I see failures. To those among you who are sad I wished so much to give a word warm with sympathy. I crave the golden key to open locked doors in hearts cold from misery. Having suffered much in many ways, I dared hope to help any who are suffering much. The sweetest joy I've known in 1903, after all, was a gift to me—the letters I have received full of sympathy; the gratitude returned for service I felt must be little, compared to the need,

(Continued on page twenty-two.)



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THE HOUSEHOLD

Forbearance.

One lesson take to heart this year,
Be good to those with whom you live,
'Tis better not to quarrel, dear,
Than 'tis to kiss and say "forgive."

Put self behind—turn tender eyes,
Keep back the words that wound and sting.
We learn when sorrow makes us wise,
Forbearance is the grandest thing.

Jean Blewett.

Convenience in the Kitchen.

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)

As "civilized man cannot live without cooks," it behooves the reasonable man to make the best arrangement possible for the scene of the cook's operations. It is a matter of prime importance that the arrangement and furnishings of the kitchen should be the best that the knowledge and purse of the household can provide. Indeed, it is not too radical an assertion to make that the kitchen should come first in the planning of a household.

First, in planning the location of a house, the place for the kitchen, where some one is likely to be almost all the time, should be well selected. There should be arrangements for plenty of light and plenty of pure air. Good heating arrangements should be looked to. A flue built lower than the rest of the house will be a constant source of annoyance from smoking. If a fireplace can be afforded only in one part of the house, it should be in the kitchen, so that cook or housewife may not have to undergo the torture of icy feet while working on wintry days, and may also have the advantage of a means of doing the many parts of a cook's duty which can better be performed by an open fire than by a stove. Scuttles for carrying coal, if it is used, should be at hand, and so should brooms, dust-brushes, holders for lifting pots and kettles, coarse cloths, stove-polish and brushes.

So many kitchens are not provided with sinks, yet these are among the indispensables of a well-provided kitchen. If of porcelain, they are lasting and easily kept sweet and clean. In the arrangement of the pipes, they should be made so as to be easily cleaned out, because the scrapings, etc., of cooking utensils are often poured into them and become lodged. Potash dissolved in water may be poured down them once a week. The place where the drainings from the sink finally run should not be neglected, but disinfectants should be scattered frequently.

A filter for the boiler, if there is a range, is easily made. A bag of loosely woven flannel, changed often, will answer the purpose.

Properly arranged tables are of great importance. Let there be a small one on casters, with drawers for small kitchen utensils. A larger one may be placed in the most convenient position.

Let us close with a word as to the necessity of light and ventilation. The former is a necessity for the cook or housewife who appreciates cleanliness, for it often takes a sharp eye to detect the presence of insects or minute im-

purities. The dampness and sickening odor that come from much boiling and steaming are disagreeable, if not sometimes dangerous. A growing plant, like parsley or thyme, will absorb this odor and please the eye as well.

L. T. Rightsell.

For the Sick Room.

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)

A basket for holding a bundle of soft cloths, the hot water bottle and fountain, flannel pieces and anything else in that line, is very convenient to have in the sick room. A common market basket lined and draped with a ruffle of pale blue or pink lawn is attractive as well as useful. Make it as dainty as possible, remembering that sick people can not get away from the sight of their surroundings, and for that reason soon tire of disagreeable objects or those things which suggest sickness and medical treatment. Make the ruffle to cover the sides of the basket and edge it with narrow lace. Cover the handle of the basket with the blue lawn and to the top of it tie a piece of the lawn large enough to conceal the contents of the basket. This should also be lace edged, and the middle should be tied to the handle with a bow of ribbon.

A shallow box of wood supplied with a handle similar to that on the basket and covered in the same way, is very convenient for holding bottles and glasses. They are not only kept out of sight when the dainty curtains are dropped over them, but they are also protected from flies and dust.

These covers are easily removed when the least soiled or mussed, and washed in a suds of white soap with a little borax added. If the lawn is of a good quality the color will probably be fast, but as one cannot always be sure about that it is well to set the blue lawn with a little sugar of lead. Dissolve what will lay on a dime in two quarts of soft water and soak the cloth half an hour in it, then rinse well and wash. It will only need this treatment at the first washing, and afterward a little care in washing to use only the pure soap or borax and dry in the shade.

A scarf of soft flannel, one and one half yards long and the width of the goods, is very convenient to fold around the shoulders of the patient when propped up in bed, to lay over the foot of the bed, or to be put over the arms and shoulders when holding a paper to read. It should have a one inch hem at the sides and a two inch one at the ends, feather stitched with Roman floss in a contrasting color. On a pink or blue scarf the stitching might be done in white, and vice versa.

R. E. M.

The Means of Helping Others.

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)

Work never ending, work that leaves no time for thought, no leisure for social intercourse with our fellows, no opportunity for the development of our faculties, is a blessing turned to a curse,

—but thrift and industry are but means to an end—they will bring us the "means of helping others." They will bring us leisure to see and admire the beautiful in life, the beauties of nature in all its varying moods, the wisdom and tenderness of humanity, as revealed in books and also in the lives of men and women about us,—time for rational pleasures and for that development of heart and soul to which every human being has a right.

It is the thrifty man who has money to lend our young men and women struggling to get an education, or requiring capital to go into business. It denies itself many trifling, passing pleasures or luxury, that it may have the means to help another. Normal, healthy men and women delight in labor—but we do not wish to be slaves to labor.

The virtue of thrift and industry cannot be too early cultivated in children—but be sure to let them distinguish between thrift and stinginess. It may degenerate into penuriousness, but in itself it is far removed from it. There is no greater pleasure than the feeling that

Something attempted, something done
Has earned a night's repose.

We must never be too desperately tired to be loving and considerate of the homefolks, and have time for cheerful conversation and companionship.

Sara H. Henton.

To Make a Nice Warm Quilt.

(A prize article in our recent contest.)

I take two or more old woolen dresses and piece the top cover in a neat pattern of good sized blocks cut from the best portions. The lining is made in strips from two to ten inches wide, according to my goods, of old woolen shirts, skirts, etc. Sew the strips together so that wide and narrow alternate, as well as different colors, and it looks well. Instead of cotton use one old woolen blanket, and quilt one to two inches apart and you have a cover that is as warm as a comfort with four pounds of cotton batting. It can be washed without taking it apart, and will be as fresh and soft as when first made, and it will wear for years.

Lillie E. Graham.

A Few Hints to the Housewife and Mother.

(A prize-winning article in our late contest.)

After it gets too cold to open windows when sweeping, take old newspapers, soak, squeeze out water then shred them over carpets and sweep up. They clean and make no dust, leaving very little dampness.

A good china or glass cement is made by taking five cents worth of acetic

(Continued on page twelve.)

We want 100,000 subscribers this winter and we are going to get them too, and just as soon as we do, our subscription price will go back to 50 cents a year. It's worth it. Can you get any other magazine in America as good as Vick's for less than 50 cents? We know you can not and believe you will find it impossible to duplicate even at that rate. However, we are going to accept subscriptions at only 25 cents for a short time and if you are not a subscriber, we hope you will fill out the coupon pg. 23 and send us today—now. Don't delay, you may forget it. If you are a subscriber this is a splendid time to send us your renewal.

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It is my experience as a specialist of 30 years. In the book I tell how at last I found a way to reach difficult, deep-seated diseases. Thirty years of earnest, ardent toil in hospitals and at bedside, made it possible for me to write these books.

The books tell how I perfected my prescription—Dr. Shoop's Restorative. How by scientific experiments I traced out the causes that bring on chronic diseases.

I found invariably that where there was a weakness, the inside nerves were weak.

Where there was a lack of vitality, that the vital nerves lacked power.

Where weak organs were found, I always found weak nerves.

Not the nerves commonly thought of, but the vital organs' nerves. The inside—the invisible nerves.

This was a revelation.

Then my real success began.

Then I combined ingredients that would strengthen—that would vitalize these nerves.

That prescription I called a restorative. It is known the world over now as Dr. Shoop's Restorative. After that I did not fail to cure one in each hundred. In the extremely difficult cases, my failures for five years were only one in each forty treated. I found cancer incurable. Cancer is for surgery, not medicine.

Then how to get this prescription to the sick ones everywhere was my thought.

I must announce it in the public press. But, thought I, will they realize the real truth of my discovery—the real power of Dr. Shoop's Restorative? Then a way came to me—like an inspiration.

"I will offer it to the sick on trial," said I. "Then they will know I am sincere."

I wrote a reliable druggist in each city and village in America.

I got their agreement to co-operate with me.

Now by any sick one

Dr. Shoop's Restorative

Can be Taken At My Risk.

For a full month I will let you use it entirely at my risk. Send no money. Just write me for the book you need. When I send it I will tell you of a druggist near you who will permit the month's trial. Take the Restorative a month. Then decide. If you say to the druggist, "It did not help me," that will relieve you of any expense whatever. He will bill the cost to me.

This is my way of clearing your mind of all doubt as to what Dr. Shoop's Restorative can do. No matter how prejudiced, you cannot dispute this absolute security I offer. You cannot resist an offer like this if you are at all sick. If you have a weakness, write me. If you can't do things like you used to do them, tell me about it. Write in confidence. As a physician I will tell you a way to help.

Get my book now—to-day.

Address Dr. Shoop, Box 7424, Racine, Wis.

Mild cases not chronic, are often cured by one or two bottles. At druggists.

I am the time of Heaven-sent rest

To tree and flower.

Earth was less blest,

Life were less full, did it not know,

My dream-time rest 'neath dazzling snow.

Factory Price

Direct to You

We are the only general merchandise house which owns, controls and directly manages a vehicle factory. We build our vehicles from the ground up and know what's under the paint. We add but one small profit to the cost of material and labor, hence our customers are getting a better made job in a finer finish and at a lower price than can possibly be secured elsewhere.

\$19.80

"LEADER" Road Wagon—Imitation leather trimmed; carpet, wrench and shafts; just as illustrated. Write for further description.



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"CHALLENGE" Buggy—24 in. body, cloth trimmed; top, back and side curtains, storm apron, carpet and shafts. Write for details.

We also have better grades up to the very best and most stylish that can possibly be put together.

VEHICLE CATALOGUE FREE. Send for it today. It will give particulars about the above work. It also illustrates and describes the newest and best line of Runabouts, Stanhopes, Buggies, Phaetons, Surreys, Carriages, Carts, Spring Wagons, etc., ever quoted direct to the buyer. It explains the difference between good and unreliable work—between the hand-painted and the dipped buggy—and also explains our Guarantee of Satisfaction and

30 Days' Trial Offer.

Send a postal today for our Vehicle Cat. No. E1.

Montgomery Ward & Co.
Chicago

A special circular quoting our entire line of Sleighs, Sleds, etc., will be sent at the same time, if you request it.

acid, with gelatine enough to thicken it. Apply to edges of break and press firmly together. If it does not stick the first time try it again as your article is most likely porous.

One teaspoon of cornstarch mixed with one cup salt will keep the latter free from lumps.

Clean your silver by boiling up in Gold dust. Afterwards wash well in clear warm water. Salsoda will do instead of Gold dust.

When baby has a cold, take two tablespoons of olive oil or goose grease, one tablespoon camphor and one of turpentine, put in small tin and warm; apply to chest and throat, in front of ears on temples and down over the nose. Put a flannel bib on. This ever fails.

A woman who cares for the admiration and love of her husband and children never loses her self respect, and so never becomes a dowdy. Whatever her trials or cares, children and no help, even poverty, still there is no excuse, she can always be neat and clean. Let her dress as well as she can afford. She need not be extravagant but dressed simply and in good taste. *Mrs. A. C. Stewart.*

Through the Year With Time.

January.

Hail, January, the beginning of the year! It is the month of New Year's gifts and New Year's calls, of merry winter frolics and gaities. Never do sleigh-bells ring happier, or skates more joyfully disport themselves than in the white, cold month of January, with its garments of snow, its breath of frost, and its icy blasts that nip our noses, and pierce our ears, fingers and toes like the points of a thousand needles.

Bite, frost, bite!
The fires are all the clearer,
My spring is all the nearer,
You have bitten into the heart of the earth,
But not into mine.

Tennyson.

What has January, the beginning month of the year, given to the world? It has been said that happy is the reign of the king of whom history says little. The annals of peace are short. By the same rule, January is the most fortunate of months. Fewer world-wide events have taken place in this month than in any other whatever. It is the month of fewest murders, and but one other month has fewer suicides. January has less storms, less earthquakes, less fires, less pestilences, less wars declared, less blood shed than any other month.

January saw the poet Dante banished from his loved city of Florence. It saw Queen Victoria become Empress of India. It saw the beginning of the most widely read newspaper in the world, the London "Times." It saw La Salle, the early explorer, murdered. It saw Washington married and Jefferson married. It saw chloroform first inhaled. It heard Lincoln make his first speech in Congress, saw Australia first colonized, the German Empire proclaimed, and gold discovered in California.

January saw Roger Williams at Naragansett Bay, after being banished from Massachusetts. It saw Michigan and Kansas admitted as states. It saw the first successful vaccination upon human beings. It saw the Mersey Tunnel opened in England, the Dreyfus riot in France, and the Revolution in Mexico. It saw Queen Victoria and Charlemagne become but common dust, saw the Indian Chiefs Osceola and Red Jacket pass away, and wicked King Henry VIII., draw his last breath. Storms and sunshine, sorrow and joy, have fallen to the lot of January. Still will we greet its incoming with the ringing of bells, and resolutions to make each new year better than those that have gone before.

Lora S. LaMance.

Laundry Work.

All housekeepers admit that washing is hard work, but there is such a satisfaction in seeing the pile of clothes as they come from the line so sweet and clean, they usually feel repaid for their labor. In some city homes there are set tubs and many contrivances to make the work easier, but in most houses the tub and board or washing machine and wringer are the means with which it is accomplished. If you have a separate room for the laundry work,

you have doubtless found it very convenient to keep the tubs, boiler, etc., there. If you use the kitchen for this work, a corner cupboard will answer the purpose nicely, and cost very little. Have shelves put up for the starch, bluing and soap. The latter should be purchased by the box, for it usually costs less, and age improves it; in fact a bar of soap that is allowed to dry a year will do almost twice as much washing as a soft green bar. Borax should also be purchased by the box, for it is almost indispensable in the laundry. Nothing softens water so well, and the texture of the finest linen is not injured by it. Use it in the proportion of a handful to ten gallons of water.

Have a capacious laundry bag in the closet and as the clothes are gathered up from various rooms, put them into it. Another bag should be used for clothes pins, and they are so cheap that one can afford to have plenty of them. Keep them clean by frequent washing, for a soiled one will leave an unsightly mark upon a garment.

In selecting a wringer, remember that those with cog bearings turn much easier than other kinds. They are great labor savers, especially when there are heavy garments or bed clothes to wash. The bench upon which the tubs are placed should be high so there will be no unnecessary stooping.

A good washing fluid is made by dissolving two ounces each of carbonate of ammonia, borax and salts of tartar in a gallon of cold soft water. The

white clothes should bewrung from cold water in which they have stood over night, and put in a boiler half full of hot water, in which one fourth of a bar of soap shaved fine has been dissolved, and a teacupful of this fluid added. Boil twenty minutes, take them out, wash once and rinse twice. Thorough rinsing is as necessary as good washing to make the clothes look clean and white.

The irons should be kept in a dry place so they will not rust. If they are rough, rub them with a piece of beeswax tied in a cloth, then on a brown paper before ironing with them. *E. J. C.*

The Snowbird

Hear the brown snowbird high in the cherry tree,
Merrily chirping a blithe little lay!
How can it twitter, and sing, and so merry be,
If it remembers a happier day?
If it remembers the spring and the nest of it,
When the cold winter winds ruffles the breast of it,
Ah, but it's brave to be making the best of it
Up in the cherry-tree.

Brave little friend up there in the cherry tree,
Facing, undaunted, the snow and the blast,
Soon will the winter go, and of a verity
Spring will restore you the dear nest at last.
I, too, remember my spring and the nest of it,—
Ah I'm afraid I'm not making the best of it!
Teach me your courage, and cheer, and the rest of it,
Up in the cherry-tree.

Helen W. Holdsworth.

Free To All Housekeepers

THE "1900" BALL-BEARING FAMILY WASHER

Saves Time, Money and Worry—Most Perfect,

Simplest Washer Known—No More Stooping,

Rubbing, Wearing Out or Boiling of Clothes.

A FAIR AND SQUARE PROPOSITION

In order to prove to the most sceptical that the

1900 BALL-BEARING FAMILY WASHER

Is unquestionably the greatest Home Labor-Saving Machine ever invented, we will

SEND YOU ONE ABSOLUTELY FREE

without deposit or advance payment of any kind, Freight prepaid, on 30 DAYS' TRIAL. If you like it, you can pay for it in cash or on the installment plan, at the end of 30 days. If you don't like it, all you have to do is to ship it back to us at our expense. You run no risk, no expense, no obligations whatever.

The 1900 Ball-Bearing Washer is unquestionably the greatest labor-saving machine ever invented for family use. Entirely new principal. It is simplicity itself. There are no wheels, paddles, rockers, cranks or complicated machinery, the easiest running washer on the market. No strength required; a child can operate it.

No more stooping, rubbing, boiling of clothes. Hot water and soap all that is needed. It will wash large quantities of clothes (no matter how soiled) perfectly clean in six minutes.

Impossible to injure the most delicate fabrics. Saving in wear and tear of clothes, to say nothing of the saving in soap and materials, pays for machine in a short time. Don't be prejudiced. This is entirely different from, and far superior to, any other washing machine ever made.



No More Blue Mondays For Me.

READ THESE CONVINCING TESTIMONIALS:



Div. 214 B. of L. E.
Perryville, Md., March 10, 1903.

Please find inclosed money order to pay you for the Washer, which has given us great satisfaction, and I assure you we would not part with it, as it is a fine machine and does everything you can claim for it. It sure makes washday a pleasure instead of the usual drag; the work is so very easy that it can't help but save women's lives, and I assure you we will take great pleasure in recommending your valuable machine to all our friends.

CHARLES P. RUTLEDGE,
Passenger Conductor.



Turner's Falls, Mass.,
April 13, 1903.

I want to inform you about your washing machine. We are very well pleased and satisfied. We have had all sorts of washing machines, and high priced ones, too, higher than yours cost, but they cannot do the work yours does. Now I am advertising your machine all over the town. I had two ladies call at my house Saturday evening to see the machine, and they both went away saying they would have one as soon as possible. Inclosed is money order for full payment on the machine.

CHAS. LAROCQUE.

Costs you nothing to try. Sent to any one absolutely FREE for a trial of 30 days. Freight prepaid both ways. No money required in advance. Send for book and particulars to

The "1900" Washer Co., 156 A. Henry St., Binghamton, N. Y.

References: First National Bank, Binghamton, N. Y.



Vick's Family Magazine

Established 1878.

50c. Per Year.

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of America.

JAMES VICK,

Founder and First Editor.

Published by VICK PUBLISHING COMPANY

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Newfoundland and foreign postage 25c a year extra.

No name will be entered on our list unless paid at least three months in advance.

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Please Notice. If this paragraph is marked, it is to notify you that your subscription expires with this issue. Let us have your renewal promptly. We are confident you will be pleased with Vick's in the future. As it is our custom to continue sending the magazine to all subscribers until ordered discontinued, you will still receive it regularly, but we hope to receive your renewal fee by return mail.

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Advertising. Our magazine is recognized as one of the most profitable for general advertising. Guaranteed circulation 60,000. Rates 25c an agate line. Seven average words make a line. Fourteen agate lines make an inch. The Magazine goes to press on the 20th of each month.

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JOHN T. BUNTING, JR. IN CHARGE.

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Entered as second-class matter at the Danville, N. Y., Post Office

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THE NEW VICK'S.

Our subscribers will notice that the pages of VICK'S have been considerably enlarged, and that there are more pages in the front of the magazine without advertising. Next month we shall use new type which has just been ordered and which is more condensed. This, together with the larger pages, will add fully forty per cent to the amount of reading matter which the magazine will contain. We propose to continue our special offer to send VICK'S a full year for 25 cents, until we have obtained 100,000 subscribers. If each subscriber will show the magazine to a neighbor and explain the big value we offer for 25 cents our list will be doubled in a short time. This issue of VICK'S was printed on the new \$20,000 perfecting press illustrated in our October issue. With this press we can easily publish 300,000 copies a month.

Thousands of our subscribers have written us recently stating how well pleased they were with the magazine, and we are sure they will like it much better in the future. Some of the expressions which have come to us are as follows:

I like your magazine so very much that I do not want to miss even one copy.
Mrs. S. E. Q., Paola, Kans.

I am very fond of the magazine and love the name of Vick.
Mrs. L. P. D., Farmington, Minn.

I enjoy reading the magazine very much and can hardly wait for it.
Mrs. E. D., Pardeeville, Wis.

Your publication is the best of its kind I have ever seen.
Mrs. V. G. B., Toronto, Ont.

Of all my magazines, Vick's is best. I have taken it for the last fifteen years.
Mrs. N. B. G., Oscar, Ind. Ter.

Your magazine has been very much enjoyed during the year, and we are anxiously looking forward to welcome it in its new dress for 1904.
P. B. H., New Richmond, Ohio.

I enjoy your paper more than any other I have.
Mrs. L. A., Bradford, Pa.

VICK'S DURING 1904.

Throughout the year we shall publish timely articles on floriculture from the pens of the best writers. VICK'S will contain a wealth of helpful information and illustrations on this subject, such as no other publication will publish. You can depend upon VICK'S as being absolutely trustworthy. The Garden Department by Mr. John Elliott Morse will continue through the year. We challenge any publication to show a better or more practical garden department. Our March issue will be a special Garden number.

There is scarcely a subject in which more people, both men and women, are interested, than poultry. Our department under Mr. Couch, has awakened great enthusiasm and is growing more popular from month to month. It is just suited to the needs of those who keep but a few hens.

You will never know the possibilities of a few fruit trees until you have read Prof. Van Deman's department for a year. He is one of the leading authorities of the country and writes for the benefit of those who have but a few trees.

We have on hand a large number of the prize stories from our recent contest for both young and old, and shall publish them during the next few months.

THE FISHER LANDSCAPE COVERS.

The front cover for this issue is a fair sample of the covers for the year. Mr. Fisher, the celebrated charcoal artist, is making a series of twelve, to appear during 1904. That these are genuine works of art, all will agree. They are different from the common run of cheap pictures which one sees on every hand. As our subscribers are sure to want reproductions of these pictures for framing, we shall have each one engraved, at great expense, on American Creme Mat Board expressly prepared for the purpose, and with no printing. The price is 25c each, postpaid, or six (all different) for \$1.00. The picture which appears in this (January) issue is now ready for mailing and is a gem. Subscribers can obtain these pictures free by sending six cents additional to cover postage and packing when remitting for their subscriptions. Those who have recently subscribed and have overlooked our picture offer may send us 10 cents for one, or 25 cents for three, and their orders will be filled promptly. Please ask for

THE FISHER CHARCOAL ART PRINTS.

We offer those who will obtain subscriptions for us, one of these beautiful works of art for each subscription obtained.

OUR PRIZE CONTEST.

It will not cost you any more to fill in the blank on the inside of the front cover and send in your estimate of the number of lines in the picture of James Vick, and send the same in with your subscription. Perhaps you will win a nice sum of money. Show it to your friends and ask them to send in estimates also. When this contest closes we shall start another even more interesting; it will be announced in our March number.

JELL-O

THE DESSERT
THAT EVERYBODY
LIKES



Dolly and I have played so hard she is tired and I will give her some Jell-O. Mamma says it is good for everybody, and I can make it as well as she.

It is a delicious dessert and can be prepared in two minutes by simply adding a pint of boiling water to a package of Jell-O.

Flavors: Lemon, Orange, Strawberry and Raspberry. At Grocers everywhere, 10c. No additional expense. Always keep a few packages of Jell-O in the house for immediate use.

THE GENESEE PURE FOOD CO., LeRoy, N. Y.

"The Kohinoor in California's crown."

MOUNT SHASTA.

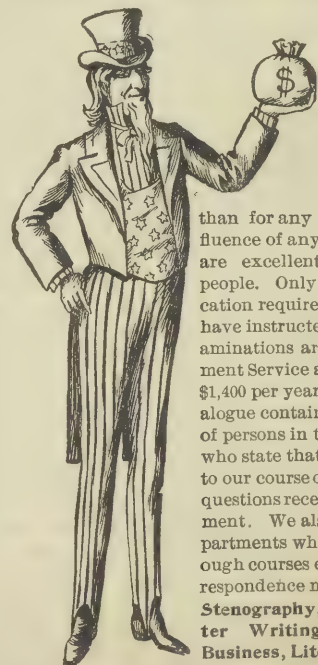
There is no more beautiful sight of its kind than Mount Shasta, covered with snow and glistening in the sun. Thousands have traveled across the continent to see it, and felt well repaid for their time. The way to reach it is by the

NEW YORK CENTRAL LINES

and their connections. Mount Shasta is only about four and a half days from New York or Boston, and every lover of this country should see it.

For details of rates and trains see a ticket agent of the New York Central.

A copy of "America's Winter Resorts," will be sent free, on receipt of a two cent stamp by George H. Daniels, General Passenger Agent, New York Central & Hudson River Railroad, Grand Central Station, New York.



GOVERNMENT POSITIONS

14,983 Appointments

were made to Civil Service places during the year ending June 30, 1902. This was 4,692 more

than for any previous year. No influence of any kind required. These are excellent positions for young people. Only a common School Education required. Thousands whom we have instructed BY MAIL for the examinations are now in the Government Service at salaries from \$840 to \$1,400 per year. Our Civil Service Catalogue contains letters from hundreds of persons in the Government Service who state that they owe their positions to our course of training; also contains questions recently used by the Government. We also have the following departments which give the most thorough courses ever taught by the Correspondence method: Law, Normal, Stenography, Penmanship and Letter Writing, Bookkeeping and Business, Literature and Journalism.

If you are interested in our line of work, write at once for one of our catalogues.

COLUMBIAN CORRESPONDENCE COLLEGE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.



FRUIT NOTES

By Prof. H. E. Van Deman

The Peach and Plum Rot Next Year.

It may be that some of our readers had peaches and plums that rotted badly last fall. If so it is quite probable that there are plenty of the remains of the rotten fruit now under the trees, and in some cases hanging on them. These contain millions of germs that will spread the disease next season. It is mainly in them and by means of them that the disease must be spread, and if the fruit is gathered and burned there will be much less chance of its rotting the fruit another season. The most thorough pains should be taken to gather every specimen that can be found this winter, and see that all are burned.

Besides this precaution it is important to spray the trees with Bordeaux mixture before the buds open in the spring, to kill any germs that may be on them. To rake up and burn all the leaves and trash under the trees is also a wise precaution. It is late to gather up and burn the mummied fruit and dead leaves, but where the ground is bare it can yet be done.

Humus in the Fruit Garden.

There is no place where humus is more important than in the fruit garden. The soil needs to be loose and full of vegetable matter. This will aid materially in keeping it moist and cool when the weather is dry and hot. Nature fills the soil with humus where the wild berry bushes thrive the best. The bushes catch the drifting leaves in the fall, and they lie there and rot in due time. This decayed vegetable matter finally becomes a part of the soil.

It is the absence of humus that causes the soil to be hard and cloddy. It will not work up loose and mellow easily when in this condition, nor stay so afterwards. The first rain will run it together and when it dries it will be as hard as ever.

We can imitate and even improve on nature by applying coarse manure and other refuse from the farm, and by growing clover, peas, cow peas or almost anything that may be worked into the soil.

This vegetable matter is an absolute necessity to nearly every crop that grows. Be sure that there is plenty of it in the ground. The mulch which is put about the trees and bushes, will eventually decay and make humus, and this is one of the most practical ways of getting it into the soil. It is nature's plan and we should try to follow it in some measure, and to improve upon it.

Seedless Fruits.

In the progress of horticulture there have been some most remarkable freaks of nature, which are of great advantage to mankind, and among them are the seedless fruits.

For untold centuries there have been seedless bananas. It may be thought by those who eat bananas, as is done all over the country, that none of them has seeds, but this is a mistake, for the native wild type, *musa textilis* bears small fruit that has well developed seeds. From its stalks the fibre is taken by thousands of tons in the Philippine Islands, and sold under the name of "Manila hemp," and our best ropes are made from it. Plants are propagated from the seeds, but not so with the edible bananas. None of them has more than the rudimentary specks that we see in the center of the fruit. The plants are propagated from suckers that come up very freely about the old stalks.

There have also been seedless grapes, perhaps as far back as history goes. They are small in berry, but the clusters are often very large. Sultana, which is grown in California, is one of the largest of them. What is commonly known in the trade as "English currants," are small, dried, seedless grapes, from Greece. They have long been exported from the port of Corinth, and the misnomer "currant" is merely a corruption of Corinth. As the carrying trade has long been largely in the hands of the English, it is easy to see how the distorted double name came into existence.

The Washington navel orange, which is properly called Bahia, we all know, and its seedless character as well. It was introduced from Bahia, in Brazil, in 1870, and is now the leading variety in cultivation in America, and one of most excellent quality. When we think of the thousands of carloads of these oranges that come to the Eastern markets from California every year, and the proportion of seeds that would be in them if were not seedless, we can imagine what a saving there is in the matter of freight alone. It amounts to hundreds of carloads every year; and the saving of time and trouble with seeds when eating the fruit is also considerable. There are a few other seedless oranges, but none of so great value as this one.

Seedless lemons are also coming into use, and they are indeed most welcome. As we generally make lemons into drinks, it is even more needful that they should be seedless than oranges. Eureka, a chance seedling of California origin, is the only one, so far as I know, that has been introduced to the trade. It is a very good lemon in every way, and only rarely has a seed or two, which makes it practically seedless. Another kind that has just been named Young, after the gentleman in Louisiana in whose fruit garden

the original and so far the only tree stands, is even a better lemon. It is of good size, has a thin and sweet skin, is very full of juice of the best quality, and so far not even the slightest sign of a seed has been found in any of the fruit. I examined many of the lemons recently, that I gathered from the tree, and believe it the best of all varieties of the lemon yet known. The tree is thornless, which is a remarkable trait in a lemon tree.

Another citrus fruit that is properly called pomelo and wrongly "grape fruit," has at least one seedless variety, called the Marsh. As ordinary pomelos are very seedy, it is a great relief to have those that are free from this objection.

There are a few apples that are practically seedless and some have almost no core, but none of them is of any great value, so far as I know, because of lack of other good qualities.

Seedless pears are not unknown, but none of these is of special value, Lincoln is the best one that I have examined. Sometimes Bartlett pears have almost no seeds, but such are usually lacking in size.

Among the Japanese persimmons there are several varieties that are seedless. Tane Nashi and Yemon are two that are large and yet free from seeds, and of good quality. Zengi, which is a small and early variety, sometimes has seedless specimens. I have found that this and several more of these foreign persimmons, or kakis, as the Japanese call them, are variable in the perfection of their flowers and in the matter of seeds; some years bearing fruit that is seedy, and the same trees the next year may have nothing but seedless specimens. Among our native persimmons there are a few varieties that bear fruit without seeds, but all that I have seen were quite small.

A prune has been originated by Luther Burbank, and named Miracle by him, which is almost seedless. All the specimens of it that I have seen or heard of have had only kernels of inferior size, and in no case were they enclosed in the usual stony shells, but instead, there were a few loose scales of the same substance of which plum stones are made. We may yet have plums that will be truly seedless, for this variety is a step in that direction.

A fruit, or vegetable, as it may be more properly called, from South America, that is close kin to the tomato and called pepino, is entirely seedless. It is about the size and shape of a goose egg, and of a pale whitish color, with faint purplish stripes. The flesh is solid and makes a nice

(Continued on page twenty-five)

Dr. Shoop's Rheumatic Cure

Costs Nothing if it Fails.

Any honest person who suffers from Rheumatism is welcome to this offer. For years I searched everywhere to find a specific for Rheumatism. For nearly 20 years I worked to this end. At last, in Germany, my search was rewarded. I found a costly chemical that did not disappoint me as other Rheumatic prescriptions had disappointed physicians everywhere.

I do not mean that Dr. Shoop's Rheumatic Cure can turn bony joints into flesh again. That is impossible. But it will drive from the blood the poison that causes pain and swelling, and then that is the end of Rheumatism. I know this so well that I will furnish for a full month my Rheumatic Cure on trial. I cannot cure all cases within a month. It would be unreasonable to expect that. But most cases will yield within 30 days. This trial treatment will convince you that Dr. Shoop's Rheumatic Cure is a power against Rheumatism—a potent force against disease, that is irresistible.

My offer is made to convince you of my faith. My faith is but the outcome of experience—of actual knowledge. I KNOW what it can do. And I know this so well that I will furnish my remedy on trial. Simply write me a postal for my book on Rheumatism. I will then arrange with a druggist in your vicinity, so that you can secure six bottles of Dr. Shoop's Rheumatic Cure to make the test. You may take it a full month on trial. If it succeeds, the cost to you is \$5.50. If it fails, the loss is mine and mine alone. It will be left entirely to you. I mean that exactly. If you say the trial is not satisfactory I don't expect a penny from you.

I have no samples. Any mere sample that can affect chronic Rheumatism must be drugged to the verge of danger. I use no such drugs, for it is dangerous to take them. You must get the disease out of the blood. My remedy does that even in the most difficult obstinate cases. It has cured the oldest cases that I ever met, and in all of my experience, in all of my 2,000 tests, I never found another remedy that would cure one chronic case in ten.

Write me and I will send you the book. Try my remedy for a month, for it can't harm you anyway. If it fails the loss is mine.

Address Dr. Shoop, Box 424, Racine, Wis. Mild cases not chronic are often cured by one or two bottles. At all druggists.

All We Need.

A little light, when dreams are gone,
To see the pathway blest;
A little hope to still keep on
A-hoping for the best.

F. L. Stanton.

NUT TREES POSTPAID BY MAIL
Apple Trees \$8.00 per 100 by Freight. Send for my Catalogue of Fresh Nut Trees and Plants (It's FREE.)
W. C. Bryant, Nurseryman, Dansville, N. Y.

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COMPRESSED AIR SPRAYERS.
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Mention this paper and get copy of Fruit Magazine free.

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Small Garden Specials

which are worthy the confidence of discerning buyers. Best plants of all small fruit varieties and a few large ones at special prices. Write to-day for special circular of twelve FRUIT COLLECTION OFFERS and general fruit catalog. Both free.

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A superb stock of all fruits, ornamental trees, shrubs and vines. 150 acres. No agents. People credit us with right dealing in our direct dealing. There's no health-fer, thrifter stock. Let us prove up to you. Ask for catalogue. It's free.
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40 BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS FREE

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- Ranunculus, 2 Hyacinths, 1 Madeira Vine, 1 Sham-
- rock Flower, 10 assorted bulbs for house or garden.

All the above flowers, cash check and the best catalogue in the
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every spraying accessory. Write for free catalog.

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Western Agents, Henson & Hubbell, Chicago.

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Yes that is what we have had for the last four years
from Fedder's Best and Earliest of all Tomatoes.
They are a bright scarlet, smooth as an apple, will
not crack, are large yielders and last until frost kills
them. 200 seeds from selected tomatoes 15c, 2 pack-
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ville, Liv. Co., New York.**

We have seen Mr. Fedder's tomatoes. They are
all he claims.—Ed. Vick's Magazine.

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Brighton's

Swine V. Stock Marker and Calf Dehorner. Stops swine
from rooting. Makes 48 different ear marks. Extracts
Horns. Price \$1.50. Send \$1 for trial. If suits, send bal-
ance. Pat'd May 6, 1902. Hog and Calf Holder only 75c.

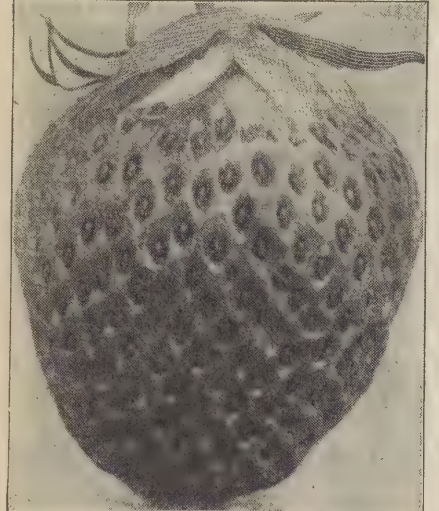
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We have a guarantee cure for Heaves, Coughs and
Colds. Guaranteed to cure or money refunded.
One package by mail, 60c. 12 pkgs. by ex. with written guarantee
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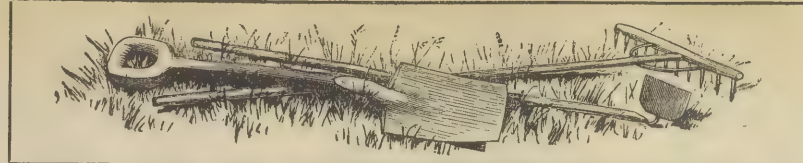
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work in an office, \$80 a month with advancement;
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BERRY KING," so called because he discovered
the way to develop the fruit organs in a plant
and make it grow two big berries where one little
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tells all about how he does it. It is a treatise on
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dress now. The finest **THOROUGHbred**
PEDIGREE PLANTS in the world.

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IN THE GARDEN

CONDUCTED BY JOHN ELLIOTT MORSE.

Greeting.

To every reader of Vick's we extend
the compliments of the New Year 1904.
Ere this reaches our readers, it will
have been ushered in with all that it
may have in-store for each of us; and I
can think of no better wish than that
it may be the year of years and the best
that each ever enjoyed. For myself
alone, I would not breathe the selfish
prayer of Holy Willie

"But, Lord, remember me and mine
W! mercies temp'ral and divine,
That I for gear and grace may shine
Excelled by none,"

but the rather would breathe it for each
of our numerous family. So with this
mutual desire let us each walk forth
into the untried future of another year;
with firmer step and brighter hopes
that its achievements shall be greater
than those of the past.

Another wish I venture to express is,
that in this coming year, our family of
readers shall increase to double its
present numbers. How may this hope
be realized? Why simply for each of
us to bring one more.

Planning.

Some people call it castle-building,
but after all, what else are all our plans
but air castles until they are matured
and put in operation? So then, it is
wise to dream and rear our castles pro-
vided only, that we afterward work out
the detail into tangible form.

Here at home, we are planning to
beautify and utilize many now unsightly
and unprofitable places. We found
many spots grown up to noxious weeds
and worse than useless undergrowths;
and through study and plan-making
with some labor also expended, we have
reclaimed some of the desert places.
Still more are waiting, and still we in-
dulge in our castle-rearing. One of the
improvements now in view, is the cul-
ture of

Water Cress.

A brook for a little way, passes
through our place, and the margins at
present are overrun with an unsightly
growth. My wife has planned the
clearing out of this useless trash, level-
ing off the slopes and setting here and
there a shrub or a tree. This will greatly
improve the general appearance; but
the stream itself can also be beautified
and utilized as well. The culture of
water cress is at present attracting con-
siderable attention both for home and
market supply. As a wholesome and
appetizing salad, it has no superior and
as a market product, it is valuable in
favored locations. The true cress, is
of course, a water plant; and wherever
that is available the question of culture
is solved. Its long season (from early
spring until late fall) makes it accessi-
ble most of the year. Doubtless many
of our homes have a brook or lake side
where a generous supply might be easily
grown; and any surplus can be easily
sold at almost any village, or especially
in the cities. The demand is large;

and water being the only requisite of
successful culture, the subject is worthy
of consideration. As to its manage-
ment, once it is started, the cutting is
about all the attention it requires. It
is grown both from the seed and from
the slips; and when once established,
the spread is rapid both by self seeding
and root extension. Where seed is
used, it may be sown close to the
water's edge and covered lightly with
gravelly loam. It may also be sown in
the still water and sinking to the bot-
tom will soon gain a foothold and care
for itself. It will grow in quite a
depth of water and like many other
water plants will find its way to the
surface.

Propagating from the slips is also a
quick and easy way of starting; and can
be done either in still or running water.
Press the slips down into the sand or
mud sufficiently that they will not be
washed out until the roots are started;
and no further care is required. If
rocky or gravel bottoms only are avail-
able, then they should be covered with
loam for best results. Frequent cutting
is essential so that the stems shall not
grow tough; and it should always be
cut, and never broken or pulled off.

These suggestions are offered in the
hope that many of our readers have not
only the facilities for growing a home
supply, but a possible opening for grow-
ing a profitable market product.

Garden Cress.

For those deprived of water facilities
the upland or garden varieties of cress
are very acceptable substitutes and by
the use of two sorts a succession may
be had from quite early spring until
late fall.

The variety known as "Curled" or
sometimes as Pepper Grass, is de-
sirable for spring and summer use. It
is often used with lettuce and adds
much to its flavor. The culture is
simple, and for use as a salad it is
worthy a place in every garden. Sow
very early in spring, and make repeated
sowings for succession. It requires
very rich soil and thorough culture and
the seed should be sown in drills four-
teen to sixteen inches apart. It is
liable to injury from insects which may
be kept off by dusting the plants with
Pyrethrum powder.

The Gray Seeded Early Winter thrives
nicely in early spring or late autumn.
Sow in late summer at intervals of two
weeks for succession. It thrives best in
cool autumn weather and thus when
used in succession with the former
variety will give an all-season's suc-
cession. The culture is the same as for
the first named sort.

A Garden Report.

The following account of a Vermont
garden reached us too late for the De-
cember number; but we insert it now
as no doubt it will incite others to like
efforts in future.

N. G. B., St. Johnsbury, Vt.—"My
garden is 54x32 feet in size, and has



The Only Food Known to Science or Practice for
Cut Flowers, Floral Pieces, Foliage, Etc.

Saves completely the ever present struggle against wilt
and decay. Fills every fibre of the branch and flower
with food and life-giving substance. The flower simply
goes on feeling, living and breathing after being sepa-
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color and fragrance for longer periods than are
possible by any other means. Not affected by heat or
cold, is odorless, harmless and will not stain. Simply
put it in the water used in preserving the flowers.

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Sample by mail postpaid, 10c.

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Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Etc., have
been the standard of excellence for half a cen-
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Roses, Bulbs, Vines, Small Trees, Etc.,
and guarantee safe arrival and satisfaction,
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you the best and saves you money. Try us. Your
address on a postal will bring you our elegant
168 page catalogue free. Correspondence solici-
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RAINBOW PANSY.

A grand novelty which sells at
25c. per packet, but if you will
send us, before March 15, a 2-
cent stamp and the addresses
of three persons who buy seeds
we will send you a full sized
packet of Rainbow Pansy to
pay you for your trouble. Also
a copy of our large, beautiful
catalog, containing hundreds
of illustrations, many choice novelties and
bargain prices on seeds, plants and bulbs,
mailed free if you mention this paper.

IOWA SEED CO., DES MOINES, IOWA.



Send 10 Cts.

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for six months. Established 23
years. 108,000 subscribers.
Subscribers Make \$10 to \$15
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Mention this paper and get 100 page Fruit Book Free.

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prices. No firm can undersell us on reliable
goods; we refuse to handle the other kind.

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at \$8.25
is warranted
for 5 years
and is the
best machine
on the market
at the price.

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At \$12.75 our
Amazon is as
good as the
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our Brunswick
Seven Drawer,
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is a beauty, one
that will do all
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is much lower than
any other firm asks
for equal quality.
Mounted on hand-
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Cabinet like
picture, only

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of Sewing Machines containing our 90 days' free
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Salzer's National Oats

Greatest oat of the century. Yielded in 1903 in Ohio 187, in Mich. 231, in Mo. 255, and in N. Dakota 310 bus. per acre. You can beat that record in 1904!

For 10c and this notice

We mail you free lots of farm seed samples and our big catalog, telling all about this oat wonder and thousands of other seeds.

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showing the clerks at work, the goods, and, in fact, an interior sectional view of every floor of the tallest commercial building in the world. It makes a very attractive and interesting wall hanger, and is one of the most complex and complicated pieces of lithography ever attempted. If you want it send four two-cent stamps, about what it cost us to print. Ask for our ten-color Wall Hanger. If you want to save your dealer's profits on everything you eat, wear or use, send 15c for our 1128-page Wholesale Catalogue. Millions are saving 1/2 of their former expenses by trading direct with us. If you want both Wall Hanger and Catalogue enclose 20c.

MONTGOMERY WARD & CO.
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This ELEGANT Watch \$3.75

Before you buy a watch out this out and send to us with your name and address, and we will send you by express for examination a fine **WATCH AND CHAIN C. O. D. \$3.75**. Double hunting case, beautifully engraved, stem wind and stem set, fitted with a richly jeweled movement and guaranteed a correct timekeeper; with long Gold Filled chain for Ladies or vest chain for Gents. If you consider it equal to any \$35.00 GOLD FILLED WATCH Warranted 20 YEARS pay the express agent \$3.75 and it is yours. Our 20 year guarantee sent with each watch. Mention if you want Gents' or Ladies' size. Address **H. FARRER & CO., F26, 23 Quincy St., CHICAGO.**

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German patent; produces any shade by simply combing, without staining the scalp; harmless, durable, undetectable. Saves time and money. Practically demonstrated at our showroom. Write for particulars. Dept. 64, H. Bieneck, 49 E. 134th St., New York.

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If you are keeping house simply send us your name and we will send you a nice gift free, also a handsome catalog that will interest you. **THE KING FURN. CO., 803 Niagara St., Saginaw, Michigan.**

MOTHERS. Have you ever used Eureka bed-clothes fasteners? If not you should send twenty-five cents for a pair. You will not regret it. Just the thing for restless sleepers. **FREDONIA SUPPLY CO., Station D, Cincinnati, Ohio.**

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SEEDS FREE

You would if you could SAVE 25 PER CENT on the cost of your seeds by participating in the benefits of co-operative buying. Every member of the **NATIONAL EXPERIMENTAL GARDENS ASSOCIATION** is a co-operative buyer and seller, having the benefit of the greatest seed exchange in the world, conducted by the Association through its members, all of whom share in the **ANNUAL FREE DISTRIBUTION** of valuable seeds, covering all new and excellent varieties experimentally produced. The membership of the Association is limited to 20,000, 200 new members will be accepted. Write to-day for full particulars. **National Experimental Gardens Ass'n Dept. 119 C Rochetser, New York.**

been used as such for several years. I gave thorough cultivation and used the following amounts of fertilizer: commercial fertilizer 100 pounds, one barrel poultry droppings, two barrels hard wood ashes and twenty pounds nitrate of soda.

The following crops were grown and planted in distances as follows: beets were sown in drills eighteen inches apart and thinned to five and six inches, corn 2x2 feet, beans same distance, tomatoes 3x3 feet and cucumbers 4x5 feet. Other vegetables were also grown; and the value of crops is given below.

Lima beans, 4 quarts	\$.40
Beets, 7 1/4 bushels	7.25
Wax beans, 4 bushels	4.00
Peas, 1/2 bushel	.50
Tomatoes (green) 2 1/2 bushels	2.50
Tomatoes (ripe), 1 1/2 bushels	1.50
Cucumbers, 621	4.75
Sweet corn, 8 dozen ears	2.00
Lettuce, 60 heads	3.00
Cabbage, 10 heads	.75
Radishes, 114 bunches	2.85
Squashes, 5	.40

Total 29.90

EXPENSES.

Commercial fertilizer, 100 pounds	\$1.50
Poultry droppings, 1 bbl	.50
Ashes, 2 bbls	1.00
Nitrate of soda, 20 lbs.	1.00
Labor, 4 days at \$1.50	6.00
Plowing and harrowing	.50
Seeds	2.00

Total expense 12.50

Value of crops 29.90

Profit 17.40

Muskmelons and onions were reported a failure so no account is taken of these crops. The showing however is very creditable, and indicates some of the possibilities of even a small plot of ground.

The lesson is, that among our readers there are many plots of ground larger or smaller, now lying idle that might be very profitably utilized. I say idle; but that is not the fact, for Nature has so constituted the soil that where it is not profitably employed it is usually busy at something worse. So if any of us have these useless places, let us set to work to beautify and utilize them. That unsightly back yard, if transformed into a vegetable or flower garden, may prove the turning point in the life of a boy or girl to lead them up to higher usefulness in future years.

Some of the Trials.

They come to us, and in their way are useful; and but for these, most of us would know little of the stuff of which we are made. A night once spent on the Allegheny mountains, was made hideous by the howling of the tempest. Now and then, the crashing of huge trees going down before the blast boded ill for the forests surrounding. In the morning it was bright and clear and, strolling through the woods, I saw that many giants were laid low. However, it was the survival of the fittest and only the weaklings had fallen. While the stronger were made still stronger and their roots would go still deeper.

But what I desired to speak of, was some of the garden trials, here is one: W. A. B., West Liberty, O., recently wrote of his failure to grow Brussels Sprouts. He did not give the method of culture; but we presume that it was all right. In spite of our best efforts,

we sometimes meet with disappointment. The failure ought not to be a bar to future success and was probably due to poor seed or else, omitting to break off the leaf stems in autumn. Poor seed is a fruitful source of failure to all the cabbage family and to none perhaps more so than Brussels Sprouts. It may be also that the side stems were allowed to grow during the fall. These should be broken down and kept out of the way of the little heads so that they may have room to set and expand. Make sure of good seed, give good culture which in all cases is the same as for cabbage; then try breaking down the stems and see if the sprouts will not grow.

Francis Hume, Salmon Falls, N. H. —"I have not been able to grow any onions for the past two years on account of the onion maggots. Can you tell me what will kill them."

The onion maggot is surely a troublesome pest and a very unwelcome visitor; and if we only knew a certain remedy, the onion growers would be saved many heartaches. Without doubt, change of location is the surest remedy; but various applications are used with more or less benefit. Kainit sown on at the rate of 600 pounds per acre, is successfully used by some growers. This may be obtained of any dealer in fertilizer; and many of the seedsmen also carry it. It is also valuable as a fertilizer which is its chief use. Gas lime is also recommended and may be sown along the rows in quite liberal quantities. This is the ordinary quick or stone lime with the gases extracted. It is plentiful in some localities and cheap while in other sections it is hard to obtain.

Why Fritz Dislikes the Postman.

(Continued from page eight.)

"Mrs. Wright, your purse was open when you picked it up. Didn't you notice that?" asked Mr. Wade.

"Why, no! Was it? Then, you may depend on it that Fritz knows something about this business. He's always tearing up papers," and my mistress looked around for me; but I felt so nervous that I trotted up the path to the hillside where Mr. Wade had been working upon a vault, and where his little girl was playing among the ferns and wild flowers. Suddenly I scented danger; and looking up I saw a portion of the bank move ever so little. I leaped forward and set my teeth firmly in her clothes, meaning to pull her out, if I could, before the rocky ledge came down.

Mr. Wade saw me and ran up, thinking that I was going to bite her, I suppose. He struck at me with his shovel, but it missed me and we all jumped barely quick enough to escape the slide which came tumbling down. He understood then; and oh, what a fuss they did make over me!

My mistress never said a word more about my taking the check; and on the way home she bought ten cents worth of Frankfurts, and for once in my life she let me eat all I wanted of them. But I don't like that postman, he's to blame for leaving that letter, anyway."

GRAPE VINES

STARK GRAPE NURSERIES are in the heart of the famous Chautauqua Grape Belt, which produces the finest vines grown in the U. S. We have an immense stock of all leading sorts; quality perfect; prices low as those of any reputable grower. Send us your orders—one vine or a car load. A complete line of fruit trees, small fruits, etc. Price List free.

BUGGIES ON FREE TRIAL.

\$19.50 buys this handsome, new 1904 Model Open Buggy, all complete. Rubber tires, \$9.00 extra.

\$24.90 buys this new, 1904 Style Top Buggy, complete with everything. Rubber tires, if wanted, \$9.00 extra.

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FREE. A Set of "Florence" SILVER-PLATED TEA SPOONS for selling 12 pieces of handsome jewelry at 10c each. We trust you; when sold send us the \$1.20 and we will POSITIVELY send you the spoons.
PLEASANT CITY NOVELTY CO., PLEASANT CITY, OHIO.

Poultry Department

Conducted by Vincent M. Couch

Those who have suggestions to make or questions to ask are invited to write direct to Mr. Couch at his home, Larkfield, N. Y. Enclose a stamp if you desire a reply.—Ed.

Poultry House Floors. Best Breeds. Milk for Poultry. Success With the Incubator.

A cement bottom probably makes the best floor that can be had for a poultry house, but it should be kept covered with something, sand, straw or leaves, or it will be too cold in winter. A tight board floor is all right but it gives rats and mice a better chance to work under the building.

When a man says that any one breed is better than any other, he is making a challenge to the breeders of about every other variety. I doubt very much if any one can select the best breed for any purpose, eggs or meat, or both. Some breeds have advantages, the same kinds also have disadvantages; what is gained in one direction may be lost in another. I think some of these breeders who make special claims on their favorites would be greatly surprised to see what the difference in egg production really was between their breeds and others all handled under favorable conditions.

Milk is a great food for poultry, but it positively must be looked after and kept pure and also the dishes that hold it, for it is decidedly bad stuff if neglected and allowed to stand around and sour. It must be fed only in such quantities as will insure its being drunk up in a few hours. None should be spilled on the ground. All dishes should be washed every time they are filled. Sweet skim milk is preferable to any other for either drink or moistening the mash. Yet sour milk is much used for large chickens and hens. It is most excellent when given in form of a curd; being more concentrated, it gives the fowls the solids without the water. A mash wet up with whey is relished by the fowls. The whey itself has little food value, but if you have it, or can get it with slight expense or trouble, it will pay to use it two or three times a week. Creameries are so common now in many sections that sweet skim milk can be had at from five to fifteen cents per forty quarts; even at twenty-five cents per quart it is a cheap food for poultry.

The incubator is always broody, we never have to wait when we once have the eggs to put in it. To get farmers to take hold and use these machines was for a long time a slow task, but they are now in successful and general use among the farming class. No less than twenty incubators were brought into my neighborhood last season, by farmers and others. Some farmers are afraid of them on account of fire, I have operated them for several years, and have seen a good many of them all around me, and have never yet known of the first accident. If the lamp is properly cared for, as a housewife would look after a lamp, there can not be any trouble nor liability to danger, as with the kitchen lamp or a lantern, for the incubator lamp can not be turned over. There is nothing mysterious or complicated about an incubator. The best machines made to day are very simple

and quite inexpensive. Success in hatching is more a matter of having well-fertilized eggs than anything else, whether hatching with a hen or machine.

Questions and Answers.

Basement for Hens.—I have basement under barn which is dry and warm. Would it answer for poultry? If well lighted and the ventilation is good it will make suitable winter quarters for poultry.

Red Caps.—Please give a brief description of Red Caps. They belong to the Hamburg class. Good layers of white eggs, non sitters, color red brown and purple black distributed as on Spangled Hamburgs. Large rose comb, weight, cock 7½ lbs., hen 6½ lbs., fairly hardy, not very common.

Sickness—Hens are dumpish and have dysentery, thirty-five in the flock, feed mash of corn meal, middlings and bran, in morning all they will eat. Wheat, barley and buckwheat through the day, get no eggs. What is the trouble? I have no doubt but this is another case of too much feed and too little exercise. Cut out the mash for a week entirely, and feed sparingly of wheat, oats and barley, all to be covered in a dry litter. Keep grit and charcoal before them, also furnish green stuff, cabbage, beets or onions, two or three times a week. Look out for insects, and keep them busy.

Oats for Poultry.—Are oats alone good for hens? I have been advised not to feed them. It is quite amusing to note the difference of opinion among people in regard to feeding oats. The only time when I would not feed oats alone to poultry, is when their crops are empty and they are very hungry, then it is better to feed sparingly as the moisture in the crop will cause them to swell and sometimes puncture the membrane that lines the crop. Oats I believe are about as near a balanced ration as can be had, although I believe better results will always be had on mixed grains. Some flocks not accustomed to eating oats will leave them at first, but after a little, they become very fond of them. Oats are an excellent egg-producing food.

Suggestions for the Beginner.

If you are just making a start in the poultry business it will be the best perhaps to begin with the lowest expense and least risk, and it may be better to rent a small place the first year rather than to buy, for if you purchase a place then you lessen your working capital, and if this is limited you will be handicapped. If you have had experience and know that success is assured, then it is different. The idea with a good many is, that much time is lost by not being able to go to work at once and make permanent improvements in the way of buildings, fences, setting out trees, etc. In my opinion this is just where a good many go wrong. They buy, pay down the whole or part and begin at once to build and improve, laying out perhaps five hundred or a thousand dollars. He keeps on two or

Incubator Advancement

Cornell Incubator—heated and ventilated in Nature's way. Always gets proper moisture lines at the right time.

Result: Most vigorous chicks ever hatched artificially. Gold Medal—Highest Award—Pan American Exposition. Catalogue free. Made only by

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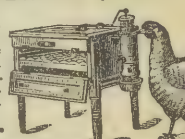


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This perfect 200-egg Wood-en Hen at \$12.80 is a startling trade innovation. It will do the work of the most costly hatcher, and always keeps in order. Hatches every fertile egg. Catalogue with fourteen colored views sent free. **GEO. H. STAHL, Quincy, Ill.**



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when the hens lay. Keep them laying. For hatching and brooding use the best reasonable priced Incubators and Brooders—built upon honor, sold upon guarantee.

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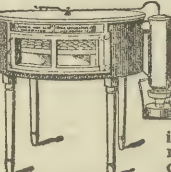
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I J. F. Siems, want every one to know all about the

Natural Hen Incubator

and will be greatly pleased to send our catalogue, telling all about it, together with a 25c Lice Formula Free of charge if you send us your address. Only plan totally different from all others. 200 egg hatcher only \$3. Agents wanted everywhere, other sex. No experience necessary. Secure your territory at once. Address **NATURAL HEN INCUBATOR CO., Box B-78 Columbus, Neb.**



No Cold Corners

In Iowa Round Incubators

No half warmed eggs. By "round" system every egg gets same heat—bigger percentage of eggs hatched. Special regulator overcomes atmospheric changes. Free catalog tells the whole story.

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NO GAS TO KILL

Very little lamp gas in an incubator egg chamber often kills every germ. No gas can possibly creep into the



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MANN'S Latest Model Bone Cutter

gives hens food which makes them lay. Cuts all bone, meat and gristle; never clogs. **Ten Days' Free Trial.**

No money until satisfied that it cuts easiest and fastest. Return at our expense if not satisfied. Catalogue free. **F. W. MANN CO., BOX 178 MILFORD, MASS.**

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12 Given away for selling 1 doz. Toothache Cures at 10c per bottle. Send name at once. **SCHILL MEDICINE CO., Mohawk, N. Y.**

BEAUTIFUL STICK-PINS

CINE CO., Mohawk, N. Y.

Good Printing Cheap.

1000 6x9 Circulars \$1.30; 5000 for \$3.50; 10,000 for \$5 prepaid.

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A. V. DWORAK, Mail Order Printer, Leocompton, Kansas.

Darken Your Gray Hair

DUBY'S OZARK HERBS restore gray, streaked or faded hair to its natural color, beauty and softness. Prevents the hair from falling out, promotes its growth, cures and prevents dandruff, and gives the hair a soft, glossy and healthy appearance. **IT WILL NOT STAIN THE SCALP**, is not sticky or dirty, contains no sugar of lead, nitrate silver, copperas, or poisons of any kind, but is composed of roots, herbs, barks and flowers. **PACKAGE MAKES ONE PINT.** It will produce the most luxuriant tresses from dry, coarse and wiry hair, and bring back the color it originally was before it turned gray. Full size package sent by mail, postpaid, for 25 cents. **OZARK HERB CO., Block 27, St. Louis, Mo.**

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A choice collection of Prize Winning Show Dahlias, fine roots, our selection of variety, no two alike. Sent by mail, *post paid*, for 50c. per doz. No better selection offered in America and have taken first prizes wherever exhibited. A splendid chance to get a collection of these beautiful plants at less than half their value. **LAKE VIEW SEED GARDENS, Brockport, N. Y.**

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three years in this way only to find out that he has invested money which he will get little benefit from.

My plan is to start in a small way, say with two flocks of twenty fowls each, and no matter whether you are on your own place or not, do not invest money in buildings very much ahead of your requirements. You can accommodate the few fowls that you start with in a small building, and even when you have two hundred you will not require extensive buildings. After you have reached this number of grown up stock, unless they are paying a profit so you can see your way clear in investing and building further, I would stop right there. There are a good many small places that with a little fixing would have accommodations for two hundred hens, and with reasonably good facilities and two hundred fowls, if you can't make a fair profit it would be a bad move to go into the business heavier, and invest a lot of money in a way that you could not get it back. But if you have been on a rented place and with a fair sized flock of hens find that you have cleared a good profit, then you can buy a place, take your poultry and move, with some certainty of going ahead and making a success at the business. It is a mistake to expect too much for the first couple of years, even if you have had experience and then start in on a large scale you will make some mistakes, and it will take time to correct them. I would allow four or five years to get everything running in good order, and in this length of time you may not have made much cash for your pocket, but if you have managed right and will figure up you will find that you are considerably better off than when you started, and by beginning as I have suggested above, you will still have your capital, which is a much better way than to take the risk of losing it all at once. There is good money in poultry raising, but to make good headway you must know how, a thing that every one don't know, and from the number of failures made it seems there are a good many who are unable to get the knowledge. It is not always neglect and carelessness that causes a failure. I have known of some of the most careful and painstaking persons running behind all the time, and the deeper they went into the business the worse they were off. Some men have made great success as specialists, devoting all their study to one particular breed and for one purpose. But for the beginner it is better to go at it in an all around sort of way on the start, or until he is well satisfied which line to strike out on.

SQUAB RAISING.

By J. A. Summers.

Of recent years the demand for the toothsome squab has been so great that the supply does not come up to the demand. Where years ago, they were used only for invalids, now they are on the bill of fare in almost all restaurants and hotels. They command good prices at all seasons and an elegant profit is derived from them by the raisers. It used to be that pigeons could not thrive when housed up, but now the former obstacles have been overcome and better success is made where they are confined than where they have their freedom.

The squab business if conducted properly will bring in a large percentage of profit considering the first capital invested. Only a few hundred dollars

Walking With Death!



YOU AT THIS MOMENT are, perhaps, arm in arm with the monster and do not know your peril! If you have the least trouble with your heart, death is ever by your side watching—waiting, till, by some little over exertion, you give the chance to instantly strike out your life!

DEATH FROM HEART FAILURE COMES WITHOUT A SECOND'S WARNING! The rapid increase of Heart Disease is awful—appalling. Six people in every ten have some trouble with their heart. Most of them don't know it, and are doctoring the stomach, kidneys, or female organs when these troubles are really only SYMPTOMS caused by the wrong heart, which controls every other organ of the body. Nine cases in ten the NERVES are affected, too—the one disease brings on the other. It is useless to treat the heart alone. The nerves also must be restored.

If you have never examined your heart and nerves, do so now. If you already know that they are diseased and weak—even if the trouble is deep-seated, of years' standing, and has an awful, almost deadly hold, and everything you've tried has failed—don't give up, for help is here!

If you need this help, write us and we will send you by mail, free and postpaid, without any conditions, without restrictions, and without cost,

A FULL FREE BOTTLE OF DR. FULLER'S HEART & NERVE TABLETS

and illustrated book which tells you all about these diseases and just how to take the tablets and be well. Both are

FREE. This offer is to prove to you what the tablets will do. We already know, but you do not. We have tested them in over forty thousand cases. They failed, on an average, once in each 204 trials. In almost every failure was some other incurable trouble which made a cure impossible. Can you wonder at our faith? Yours may be one of the few incurable cases—we do not yet know—but this test will tell—and the test costs YOU nothing. The risk—the cost—is ours.

For more than a year we have spent the whole receipts of our great business to tell sick and discouraged people of our remedy—to make them this offer. The very fairness of the thing shows our confidence. If it were a common remedy, or if it failed often, we could not do this, for our success depends upon the good it does—the cures it makes. One reason why the Tablets cure such hopeless cases is because they not only strengthen and regulate the heart, but also revitalize and restore every nerve and nerve centre in the body.

YOU CANNOT MISTAKE THESE SURE SYMPTOMS. Go over them carefully. Have you pain, tenderness, or numbness around the heart? In left side? arm, or shoulder blade? palpitation? fluttering? skipping beats? short breath? panting from going up stairs? choking? numb, faint, sinking, deathly spells? dizziness? nightmare? asthma? swelling legs? Are you NERVOUS? Irritable? easily tired out? frightened? or excited? Do you have creeping sensations? hot flashes? hysterics? melancholy? dread? loss of memory? Are you weak and run down?

No case has all, some of the worst only a few. If, therefore, you have one or two, your heart and nerves are surely wrong. Delay means danger—sudden death! Can you refuse help—yes, life—when offered you like this? Address plainly,

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127 MASONIC BUILDING, HALLOWELL, MAINE.

A. O. HOWLAND, M.D., one of New York's most noted physicians, says: "Since 1899 I have prescribed your Tablets in a great many cases of Heart and Nerve diseases, and as yet without a single failure. They are a very wonderful remedy."



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are required to start where such a sum would be nothing to commence in such a business as stork keeping* etc., and yet with a few hundred pairs of pigeons anyone with a little judgment can make a living for himself and family. Many farmer's sons could make nice yearly incomes by stocking a part of their barn (not used for anything else with pigeons. The risks are not so great as with chickens, but the birds must be attended to and not neglected.

With chickens one must not only feed the old, but must also give the little ones their meals, but not so with pigeon breeding. You feed the old birds, and they feed their young. One person can feed a thousand pairs of birds in about a quarter hour, the rest is left for the old ones to do. The little birds are fed from pre-digested food from the crops of their parents who by a sort of pumping force the food into the squabs mouths. It takes no longer time for a person to feed a lot of birds with young than it does without young. The old birds lay two eggs and after sitting upon them eighteen days they hatch. The male bird sits upon the eggs also, relieving his mate. He occupies the nest from 10 A. M., till 4 P. M., the hen the rest of the day and night. At first the little ones are fed upon a sort of milky substance which is secreted in the throats of the parent birds, and after they are ten days old they are fed coarser food until they are at an age of three or four weeks they are fed almost immediately after the old ones eat. Each hen must have a mate and when once mated they remain true to each other unless separated by man or by death. They are good for breeding until eight or ten years of age.

After the squabs are four to five weeks old they are ready for market. It costs but one and one-half cents per pair for feeding birds a week and their young also so with the prices received for the squabs which is forty cents per pair in summer to eighty cents per pair in the winter one can imagine the percentage of profit. Each pair of birds have (if they are not too old at least six pairs of young each year, some may have more and to average them properly each pair of breeders bring in a net profit of a \$1.00 a year, so if \$1,000, is desired to be made 1,000 pairs are necessary.

If Antwerps, Duchesses, or Horners are used as breeders a nicer profit than above named can be made as these birds are larger than most common varieties, and their young nice, large and fat, and of a white color when dressed. A dark squab when dressed, no matter how large and fat will net command over twenty-five cents per pair, so it will be seen that the fewer one has of breeders throwing dark squabs the better he is off. Squabs of the largest size demand the highest market prices so it pays to commence right by buying only good large stock. The amount of labor required is almost nothing, in fact unless very large numbers are kept, one will have only a few hours' work daily. The writer has nearly 2,000 and it takes only fifteen minutes to feed and half an hour to give fresh water. Of course it takes a day or two a week for killing young ones, and a day or two each month for cleaning buildings, then the work is about done. One person can attend 1,000 pairs nicely and have ample time to do other work around a place. The writer finds it a snap to other oc-

cupations and one is his own boss and can go or come when he pleases. It is the business for a young man; he can advance as he saves money. There are some who commenced on a few dollars and by careful saving now operate plants of thousands of pairs of birds.

The place to breed pigeons can be a part of a barn fixed off in small nests, a foot square, or a building put up expressly for the purpose. At all events a cage of sufficient size must be made so the birds can have exercise and sun themselves. A building ten feet wide, eight feet long, nine feet high front, and seven feet back with a wire cage twelve feet by eight feet and six feet high will nicely accommodate forty or fifty pairs of birds.

The best squab birds are the Horner or Duchesse. They are good breeders and stand being confined better than other varieties. They have a choice fat squab which demands the highest price in the markets. They can be oftentimes purchased for fifty or sixty cents per pair, and it pays better to get these than to fool with common birds, is the latter are small and their young seldom get the size of a Horner squab.

The majority of squabs raised in the East are consumed in New York City and Boston; and for the larger sizes of squabs such as these, produced by runts or their crosses, dealers are now paying \$5.00 per dozen. The larger the pigeon, the larger the squab, the higher the price. The breeding houses need not be heated artificially in winter as the birds can withstand any temperature and in cold weather sit upon their young until they are feathered sufficiently to stand the cold.

Water they must have in good quantities, as they not only use it for drinking but bathing also. I have seen them crack the ice in their troughs and bathe as though it were in summer. They take their bath in zero weather as well as in summer. It must be changed once or twice a day and fresh given. The receptacle for their water should be large enough to hold a bucket of water. Wooden ones four inches deep are the best as this depth allows them a good free bath, and all troughs no matter what they are made of should be cleaned out every time fresh water is given. It is best to have their water in the outside cages for if given inside they

slop too much on the floors. A molasses barrel with the top and bottom sawed off above the second hoop makes a nice handy tub for the birds' water. The water at all seasons must be pure.

The nest material used by the birds in building their nests is given them inside the building, in a corner on the floor and they carry up piece by piece to their box until their nest is finished. Each pair have their own nest and seldom change. Tobacco stems to keep away lice are what is mostly used for their nest materia.

(Continued on page twenty-one.)

Well, how do you like us in our new dress anyway? We feel that we have made quite an improvement over former issues but are still unsatisfied. We shall go on making our Magazine better and better, as the months go by. The February Front Cover will be a reproduction of Mr. Fisher's Charcoal Drawing showing a beautiful rural Homestead and Landscape. This issue will be a special Poultry number. Do not miss it. If you are not already a subscriber, send us your order today, only 25 cents a year. Is it not a bargain?

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For nineteen years this great Specialist has been studying and curing deafness. His success in making the deaf hear has made him famous all over the world. Yet the fame he has won is nothing to him compared with the grateful words of those who have regained their hearing by his aid. The following letter, written by a lady of 70 who was quickly and entirely cured, is only one of the hundreds like it he has received:

Dear Dr. Sproule:—I am happy to say that my hearing is entirely restored, thanks to your skill and wisdom. I was almost totally deaf, with terrible ringing and roaring noises in my head, but now at the end of two months' treatment, my hearing is entirely regained. I shall always hold you in grateful remembrance, and I will gladly answer any letter of inquiry that may be written to me. Yours gratefully, Mrs. Leonard C. Foster, Cooper, Washington, County, Maine.

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If you've tried other doctors and other remedies and feel all discouraged, take heart for here at last is the one who can cure you. **Remember, it will cost you nothing**, to receive the counsel of the greatest authority of the age on the ear and its troubles.

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He will gladly give you free consultation and advice and he is ready and willing to study your case without any expense to you. He feels it his duty as a physician and a man to share his knowledge with all who need it, and no one should hesitate to accept this kind offer. Let him inform you just what to do for your deafness! Let him explain to you how deafness can be cured! Let him show you how countless persons who regarded themselves as incurably deaf have regained their hearing through his wonderful skill. Don't put this matter off, but write to him today! Answer the questions yes or no, cut out the free coupon, and mail it at once to **DEAFNESS SPECIALIST SPROULE (Graduate Dublin University, Ireland, formerly Surgeon British Royal Naval Service) 16 Doane St., Boston.**



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Do your ears throb?
Do your ears feel full?
Do both ears trouble you?
Does wax form in your ears?
How long have you been deaf?
Do you have pain in your ears?
Are you worse in damp weather?
Do you hear better in a noisy place?
Did your deafness come on gradually?
Do you have a discharge from either ear?
Do you have ringing sounds in your ears?
Is your deafness worse when you have a cold?
Can you hear some sounds better than others?
Are there hissing sounds like steam escaping?
Do your ears crack when you blow your nose?

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Squab Raising.

(Continued from page nineteen.)

The first step in starting this business is to get good healthy birds and see that they are mated. If they are not mated take equal number cocks and hens and place them in a pen and they will mate up evenly. When they are once mated they never separate. Any one can easily tell when the birds are mated by their loving actions such as kissing and smoothing each others feathers.

The feed for pigeons is nothing but grain. They require good food in this line the best obtainable and it should be sound and dry. They do not require green food or ground bones or meat as do chickens but subsist only on grain food. In the feed line wheat, corn, buckwheat, peas, millet, hemp seed, hulled oats, or any other seed of a healthy nature. They must be given enough to eat so as to feed their young also. Pens with only a few squabs need less food than ones in which there are larger numbers, and where the squabs are killed off of course the quantity of feed must be lowered. Any one with a little common sense and judgment can make a success in squab raising if they start right.

The squabs that are to be killed are taken away from their parents when about a month old, or when their pin feathers are long enough to be extracted without the aid of a knife. A squab at four weeks of age generally weighs ten ounces, some as high as a pound, but a ten ounce squab demands a high price. In killing they are struck in the mouth with a sharp knife and soon as sufficiently bled the feathers are plucked. At first it may take a inexperienced person a quarter hour to pick a squab clean but after a little practice it can be done easily in three minutes. As they are picked, throw them in cold water, slightly salted, as this draws out the animal heat quickly and makes them look nicer. In shipping to the markets, they are packed with their breasts down in a clean box lined with paper. In summer it is necessary to ice them up when shipping as they spoil very easily. After November 1, ice is not usually required in this climate.

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The Safe Investment of Money

EDITORIAL

In view of the unpleasant and disastrous experiences through which the investing public has passed during the past year I feel that a word on the subject of investing money will be welcomed by the readers of Vick's Family Magazine. As soon as the country becomes prosperous and business booming in every direction people are attracted by the big profits being made by the large corporations like the Steel, Sugar, Tobacco, Copper, and other companies, and begin buying stock in them, and the railroads which are largely dependent upon such companies for their prosperity. This was the case during 1900, 1901, and 1902 to such an extent that billions of dollars of the good money of American citizens were invested in this manner. Things went on smoothly and everyone was feeling prosperous until early in 1903 when a few of the "gilt edge" stocks and bonds in which the people had invested so freely on the advice of the "captains of industry" began to decline slowly; but the investors were not alarmed as they were assured that their holdings would soon advance again; they did not recover the loss, however, and soon other "gilt edge" securities began to decline, then many others, faster and faster until in November and December 1903 stocks and bonds had gone so low as to cause hundreds of millions of dollars loss to those who put their good money into them. It would seem that our people had learned a lesson which would last them long, but I fear they have not; the itching for speculation; to get rich quickly will come upon them again after a while and they will run the same mad race again.

For the present, many people will dispose of their stocks and bonds and put their money in the banks. This is wiser than speculating in stocks and bonds but many people do not realize to how great an extent the funds of banks are invested in this same class of securities and that in selling their securities and depositing the money in a bank they are placing it in the hands of the money lenders who will at once loan it on the very same class of securities which they have sold or else invest it outright in them. To be sure the banker is supposed to have and probably does have a better knowledge of such matters than the ordinary individual, but after all he must rely on his judgment and he is as often faulty in this respect as the farmer or mechanic. A wealthy bank director of this city recently lost thousands of dollars on U. S. Steel stock. The only safe way is not to gamble in stocks and bonds at all. Where banks loan money on stocks it is usually for less than their market value but it often happens that stocks decline far below the amount loaned on them and the bank sustains a loss. I was astonished to read the statements of four large trust companies, issued on January first, to find that out of a total of \$30,796,494, of assets only \$2,869,803, was invested in mortgages on real estate which is unquestionably the safest investment on earth, and the enormous sum of \$10,879,540, invested in stocks and bonds. Thus it will be seen that fully 33 1/2 per cent of the resources of these banks are invested in the class of securities

which have decreased in value from ten per cent to fifty per cent during the past few months. Who knows but that they will go still lower and endanger the life of these institutions. It is true that many of the securities held by these banks are U. S., city and county bonds, but some of these have declined many points during the past year. One of the largest trust companies in New York city loaned \$4,000,000 more than was lawful, to one concern last year. If the money which these banks loan belonged to them there could be no objection to their loaning it as they see fit, but it belongs to the people who deposit with them and who place confidence in them. I believe that most banks keep within the law on these matters and use their best judgment.

I do not desire to cast a reflection on the banks as I regard money deposited in them as much safer than if kept in stockings or bureau drawers. The point which I wish to emphasize is that an investment in a first mortgage on good real estate is by far the safest and most satisfactory which the average person can make.

Experienced financiers in this line consider loans on improved real estate, centrally located, in a growing city as the very best property on which to loan, as it is quite sure to increase steadily in value and have a steady income. Farm property is not regarded so favorably as unfavorable seasons and poor crops are apt to make the collection of interest slow, if not impossible.

For the accommodation of the readers of Vick's who have sums of money which they desire to place out at interest on mortgages I have opened a bureau for this purpose. I already have several applications for loans on first-class property in sums of \$300, \$500, \$1,000 and upwards. These loans can run from one to ten years. A few can be placed at six per cent, while others will not pay more than five per cent. I have employed a first class attorney to examine the titles and will further have the titles guaranteed by the Rochester Title Guarantee Co., which is capitalized at \$150,000. I make no charge for attending to the business and as the attorney's fees are paid by the borrower there is no cost whatever to the lender. I hope to be of service to my readers in this way. If you have funds which you desire to invest in this way, feel free to write me, stating the amount, the length of time for which you wish to loan it, and I will be pleased to tell you promptly whether I can place it at once and at what rate. Do not send the money until writing me unless the sum should be for \$1,000 or less as I cannot guarantee to place larger sums at once at six per cent; however, if you are willing to accept five per cent, I can place a large amount at once on the most desirable property in this city. Should you make remittance in your first letter please do so by New York Draft or Money Order payable to me personally and be sure to state the length of time you wish to loan it and the rate of interest you are willing to accept. Address me plainly as follows:

FRANCIS C. OWEN, (Personal),

Editor Vick's Family Magazine,

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The Mother's Meeting

(Continued from page ten.)

for you reward me in full with the sympathy I need to inspire me in my work. 1904 is with us. I have a grand hope and my heart thrills to it. God make me worthy, for, ah! I perceive now 'tis a goodly field before me. Vick's numbers thousands of readers; oh, women with tender hearts and a knowledge of all women endure, help me! You who are childless, you who are "busy," all who need help and know of others who need it. So many cannot afford "luxuries" and are but hesitating because the purse must supply necessities first. Who can teach an unselfish woman the need the value of knowledge, aye, the economy of it. Some would, even if only a cent at a time could be spared, or if "pin-money" must be earned by extra efforts, purchase some grandly helpful books or magazines, and by using their advice, cease being wearied by illness, enslaved by doctors, if they could see the books and realize that the price is not an expense but an investment.

Some can not buy yet are in direst need and suffer unnecessary agonies of body and mind, losing faith in the God who "allows such things." 'Tis religion to be sunny and healthful, a mission to help the sick hearts regain hope. All of this is now in view.

May God go with the Traveling Libraries! At first I was content to plan one Library to go for a two week's visit to those needing it. Already my book records names enough to keep this the original library, traveling a year! Ah! and my heart aches to reflect how many, how many more need such help. Therefore I am working and truly believe I shall have fifty libraries en route in 1904. I am so glad, so proud, so hopeful. Pray for its success, talk of it. Get up Vick's Magazine clubs and thus hold a library on a month visit. Tell each other mothers are not cursed; mothers must be pure and redeem a world gone sexually mad. Ignorance is not virtue. Childbirth must become an honor when women know themselves. "Physical Culture" seems a religion of the body.

Show your magazine or ask to have a marked copy sent to any case where motherhood needs help. Don't let young brides spoil their futures by ignorance the first year, resulting in a revolt against marriage. Don't let young mothers wreck their lives, or bear sickly children and make them worse by wrong methods.

What can we do? What can you do? What can I do? Well if fifty libraries are begun in 1904 who shall say there shall not be two hundred in 1905. If W. C. T. U. women send one (or more) through their branches; if the Social Purity League helps—I foresee a hundred means to raise funds to start libraries on their trips. Let us do one thing now—be more chatty to each other; all readers of Vick's Magazine are friends. Our motto in 1904 shall be, "Help One Another." It is not being unsympathetic to the other sex if we labor for our own, but it is acting on a belief that women are God given "helpers"—not for dollars to lose at death; cattle are good servants and money savers. Women of America should help men in nobler ways, not scorning economy but adorning it.

Ignorance of the sex-self lies back of our notorious divorce courts. Ill health

lies back of "incompatibility of temper." A study of health will act out spiritual marvels, and a healthy wife will sweetly rule her home. Nagging, family quarrels will grow beautifully less. Children will not be banished to streets or buried in schools to relieve a mother's "nerves."

Send the children to bed with a kiss and a smile, Sweet childhood will tarry at best but a while; And soon they will pass from the portals of home, The wilderness ways of their lifework to roam. Yes, tuck them in bed with a gentle "goodnight!" The mantle of shadows is veiling the light; And may be—God knows—on this sweet, little face, May fall deeper shadows in life's weary race.

Yes, say it; "God bless my dear children, I pray!" It may be the last time you say it for aye! The night may be long ere you see them again, And motherless children may call you in vain. Drop sweet benedictions on each little head, And fold them in prayer as they nestle in bed; A guard of bright angels around them invite; The spirit may slip from it mooring tonight.

The Young Mother.

What is the most important detail of attention to be given new born infants?

While one must see to it that the infant breathes properly the average child does this unassisted, and while cleanliness requires that a soft rag and olive oil (or sweet lard, scented or not) be used to remove mucous substance from face, head, ears, mouth, and hands, (rubbing clean oil in afterward and not washing child until a rest of two or three hours has been enjoyed all cuddled into a warm old blanket lying by his mother's side), the most important detail is the care of the eyes. In maternity hospitals this is always seen to at once as all good physicians agree blindness and lesser eye diseases are thus caused.

Have a littler oil of soft old linen, such as worn out napkins and handkerchiefs. Keep in readiness a bottle of borax water (blessed be borax!) and as each little swab is used throw it away, and be sure the eyes are carefully done. For days any soreness needs treatment. Witch Hazel (the purest) should be used also.

As there is a need for frequent cleansing of the infant's mouth and of the mother's nipples have a box of that purest of boraxes now so widely advertised. You will need it in many ways ere baby is grown to school age. A trite word would be "Use Borax for" (Continued on page twenty-three.)

A Fine Kidney Remedy.

Mr. A. S. Hitchcock, East Hampton, Conn. (The Clothier,) says if any sufferer from Kidney and Bladder Disease will write him, he will direct them to the perfect home cure he used. He makes no charge whatever for the favor.

Oil Cure for Cancer

Dr. D. M. Bye has discovered a combination of oils that readily cure cancer, catarrh, tumors and malignant skin diseases. He has cured thousands of persons within the last eight years, over one hundred of whom were physicians. Readers having friends afflicted should cut this out and send it to them. Book sent free giving particulars and prices of Oils. Address **DR. D. M. BYE CO., Drawer 505, Indianapolis, Indiana.**

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To Women Who Dread Motherhood!

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No woman need any longer dread the pains of child-birth; or remain childless. Dr. J. H. Dye has devoted his life to relieving the sorrows of women. He has proved that all pain at child birth may be entirely banished, and he will gladly tell you how it may be done absolutely free of charge. Send your name and address to J. H. Dye, 116 Lewis Block, Buffalo, N. Y., and he will send you, postpaid, his wonderful book which tells how to give birth to happy, healthy children, absolutely without pain; also how to cure sterility. Do not delay but write today.

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Write to-day and learn for yourself that you can be cured. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Address Dr. W. Thompson Bobo, 41 Minty Block, Rattle Creek, Mich.

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looks no better and is no better timekeeper than this elegantly engraved DOUGLAS HUNTING CASE Watch fitted with a STEEL WIND and STEEL SET, high-grade, accurate RUNY JEWELLER movement. **GUARANTEED FOR 25 YEARS** We will send you for FREE EXAMINATION if you send this ad, and write if you desire a ladies' watch with "Gold" Jorgnetto chain or a gent's watch with vest chain. You examine the watch at your express office and if as represented, pay \$3.75 and express charges and they are yours. **RELIABLE WATCH CO., Dept. 298, Chicago**

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PATENTS

Send sketch for free report as to patentability and Commercial value. Write for Inventor's Hand Book. Work in charge of a former Patent Office Examiner. Highest References.

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My husband was a hard drinker for over 20 years and had tried in every way to stop, but could not do so. I at last cured him by a simple home remedy which anyone can give secretly. I want everyone who has drunkenness in their homes to know of this, and if they are sincere in their desire to cure this disease and will write to me, I will tell them just what the remedy is. My address is Mrs. Margaret Anderson, Box 233, Hillburn, N. Y. I am sincere in this offer. I have sent this valuable information to thousands and will gladly send it to you if you will but write me today. As I have nothing whatever to sell, I want no money.

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RED RIDING HOOD.

On the wide lawn the snow lay deep
Ridged o'er with many a drifted heap;
The wind that through the pine-trees sung
The naked elm boughs tossed and swung;
While through the window frosty-starred
Against the sunset-purple barred,
We saw the sombre crow flap by,
The hawk's grey fleck against the sky,
The crested bluejay flitting swift,
The squirrel poisoning on the drift,
Erect, alert, his broad gray tail
Set to the north wind like a sail

It came to pass, one little lass,
With flattened face against the glass,
And eyes in which the tender dew
Of pity shone, stood gazing through
The narrow space her rosy lips
Had melted from the frost's eclipse;
"Oh, see," she cried, "the poor bluejays!
What is it that the black crow says?
The squirrel lifts its little legs
Because he has no hands, and begs;
He's asking for my nuts I know—
May I not feed them on the snow?"

Half lost within her boots, her head
Warm sheltered in her hood of red,
Her plaid skirt close about her drawn,
She floundered down the wintry lawn:
Now struggling through the misty veil
Blown round her by the shrieking gale,
Now sinking on a drift so low,
Her scarlet hood could scarcely show
Its dash of color on the snow.

She dropped for bird and beast forlorn
Her little store of nuts and corn.
And thus her timid guests bespoke:—
"Come, squirrel from your hollow oak—
Come, black old crow—come poor bluejay,
Before your supper's blown away!
Don't be afraid, we all are good,
And I'm Mamma's Red Riding Hood."

John Greenleaf Whittier.

Talks About Flowers

(Continued from page four.)

reasonably large plot of flowers or vegetables well cared for and in prosperous condition, can hardly fail to encourage a child to greater effort, and fill him with a real love for the work. At first, tactfully draw his attention to the beauty of plant life, from the time the seed is dropped into the soil, until the ripened pods sway on the lifeless stalks. The preparation of the ground is a part of the work that most children will like, even if they object to hoeing and weeding. It is a good plan not to have the rows of flowers or vegetables too long, so that the child may not get discouraged because of the backache.

Instruct him that morning and evening are generally the pleasantest times to "garden it," and if he has methods of his own, let him use them until he can be taught the merits of a better way. I know a boy who at first weeded his flowers with a table fork. He insisted that he could do the work handier and easier with that instrument—and no doubt he could, because he liked that method—but now he uses a real weeder. Children require much praise as well as encouragement and instruction. Do not overlook this point.

A garden pays richly in more ways than one; and every child should be provided with a piece of ground and allowed to work for the pay.

Sometimes a boy or girl may be tempted to undertake a garden because of the money that can be found therein. I know of an eight year old who makes considerably more than his

"spending money" by peddling green corn, which he grows every year. Another boy went into partnership with his father and found a number of dollars in a parsnip and vegetable oyster patch. Another youth sells potted Holland bulbs in the winter and sweet peas and asters in the summer. He used to take orders for plants among his neighbors and procured his own seeds and bulbs free. Then again, there is a young man who planted a lot of raspberries when he was a boy; and to this day he is enjoying the fruit and the money that come from those identical bushes.

Every one who has children should by all means provide them with a garden and let them go into business. By the way, if necessary, their parents might go in with them and share the profits. Only for the sake of the thing let the boys and girls be at the head of the undertaking—in name if not in fact. Like "children of a larger growth," a young person can do a great deal better if he has unlimited encouragement and enthusiasm to back him up. Therefore, be on hand when needed, and lend assistance and sympathy. There is no knowing what a garden may do for one.

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Asthma sufferers need no longer leave home and business in order to be cured. Nature has produced a vegetable remedy that will permanently cure Asthma and all diseases of the lungs and bronchial tubes. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases (with a record of 90 per cent permanently cured,) and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all sufferers from Asthma, Consumption, Catarrh, Bronchitis and nervous diseases, this recipe in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail. Address with stamp, naming this paper. W. A. Noyes, 847 Powers Block, Rochester, N. Y.

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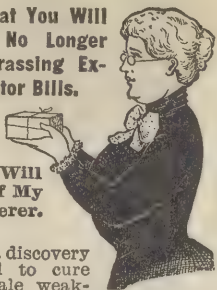
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Book Notices.

THE OLD CHINA BOOK. By N. Hudson Moore. Our readers will all be interested in this work of our valued contributor, Mrs. N. Hudson Moore who writes so charmingly of the birds and the flowers. The book with the above title is written in the same easy, graceful style as her contributions to our magazine, and any woman who reads it will be only too apt to get the craze for old china, if she is not already a collector. A large number of fine half-tones from photographs of old and valuable pieces of pottery adorn the pages, and the descriptions, while they make entertaining reading, are so plain that one cannot fail to obtain a good idea of the different wares. The binding of blue with white lettering is most appropriate, making one think of wedgewood. Frederick Stokes Company, Publishers, New York. Price \$2.00 net.

SYSTEMATIC POMOLOGY. Treating of the Description, Nomenclature, and Classification of Fruits. By F. A. Waugh. Fruit growing for profit can no longer be carried on in the haphazard way formerly in vogue. The man who expects to make a success of growing fruit in these times, needs to have the fullest knowledge of the fruits themselves. This work of Prof. Waugh on Systematic Pomology gives practical ideas how such knowledge can be obtained, and will be of great assistance to nurserymen, fruit growers, and all who recognize the value of such information. Orange Judd Company, New York.

THE FOREST. By Stewart Edward White. If you are of the kind that likes the woods, the unbounded forest with its stillness, its trees, its waters, its fish and its game, don't fail to read "The Forest." It has the very spirit of the wildwood, and will appeal in the strongest way to all who love an out-door life and well-told stories of adventure. If you are contemplating a trip through the wild north woods next summer, it will give you advice on the "Science of Going Light," that will be worth more than the price of the book. The book is beautifully illustrated by a number of full-page drawings, one of which in in color. Published by The Outlook Company, New York. Price \$1.50 net.

AMERICAN PARK AND OUTDOOR ART ASSOCIATION, Vol. VII, Part II, is made up of the reports of the Standing Committees of the Association. These reports are full of interest as showing the public spirited work which is being done in many cities, and the encouraging results which are being obtained. Published by the Secretary, Charles Mulford Robinson, Rochester, N. Y.

The Christmas number of Country Life in America is truly magnificent. It is filled with interesting Christmas matter and fairly overflowing with beautiful illustrations. One of the most interesting articles, entitled "Christmas Greens and Flowers," is illustrated with eight beautiful colored plates and many fine half tones. Published by Doubleday, Page & Co., New York. Price \$3.00 per year.

Fruit Notes.

(Continued from page fourteen.)

dish when cooked. The plants must of course be propagated from cuttings, and these root very readily.

Seedless watermelons have been mentioned in the public press of late, but I think there is no foundation of truth in these statements; for, how could melons be propagated if not from seed? Could such a thing be originated, which I agree is not impossible, it would not be practicable to propagate the vines from cuttings. They could not be wintered over except in a hot house, and this would be very costly.

It may be a mystery to many of us regarding the setting and development of fruits that contain no seeds, and in most cases they will drop off almost with the falling blooms if not pollenized and the embryo seeds already fertilized. But in the cases above mentioned there is no trouble from this cause. We are undoubtedly progressing in horticultural science and practice.

Our Clubbing Offer With The Housekeeper of Minneapolis.

NOTICE that 60 cents pays for the Housekeeper and Vick's Family Magazine for one year. This is a proposition that should not be overlooked by our readers. Remember that our offer is to send you the Housekeeper for one year and Vick's Family Magazine for one year, all for 60 cents, price of Housekeeper alone.

Useful Premiums for All!!

Your chance to get them without costing you a Penny.

We want forty thousand new subscribers at once. The material profits in a publication like ours, are through its advertisers, not through subscribers, but in order to command the best prices for its advertising space, a large regular subscription list is necessary. Our advertisers have always found the paper highly profitable.

To this end we have determined on two substantial inducements. First we are going to make our subscription price for a short time

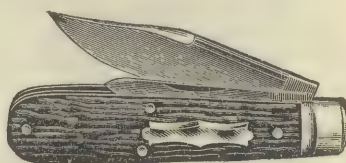
25 Cents a Year.

Second, we have consummated a deal through which we are able to give our friends,

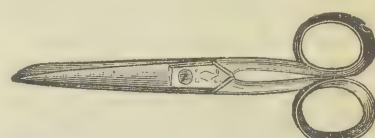
Without Cost,

a choice of fine Pocket Knives, Scissors or Razors, made by the Griffon Cutlery Co. This firm's goods are too well known to require any explanation from us, they being the largest advertisers of this class of goods before the public. Goods of this class that will hold an edge are rare indeed. We have made a personal test of these goods—even to whittling a nail with the knives without turning or nicking the edge, hence take pleasure and pride in this offer. The manufacturers will cheerfully replace any defective article free of charge, upon request to them.

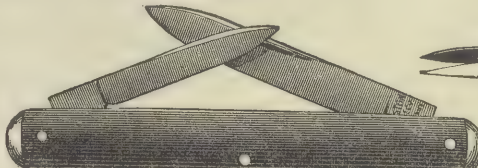
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"Griffon" Knife; 3 1/4 in. long; smooth coco-bolo handle; steel bolsters and linings. Two blades both forged by hand of the best (S. & C. Wardlow) refined tool steel and crocus polished. A good strong, useful knife that is guaranteed to hold an edge. Free for 3 Subscriptions.



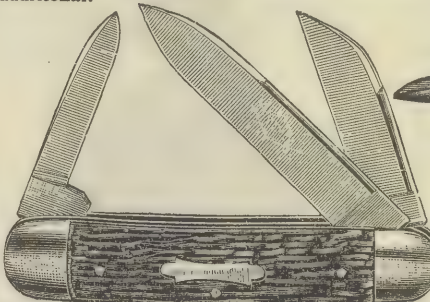
Nickel plated, solid steel scissors; 5 1/2 in. long, with fitted bows, "drop" forged. Don't confound this with the cheap "pot metal" kind, sold in many stores. These are reliable, handsome and guaranteed scissors that will retain their edge and give satisfaction. Free for 3 Subscriptions.



"Griffon" Ladies' or Boy's flat pen Knife. Can be carried in vest pocket or in ladies' purse. 2 1/2 in. long. Two blades, both forged by hand of the best (S. & C. Wardlow) refined tool steel and crocus polished. German silver tips and brass linings, stag horn handles. A splendid knife and guaranteed to hold an edge. Free for 5 subscriptions or with 3 subscriptions and 35c cash or stamps additional.



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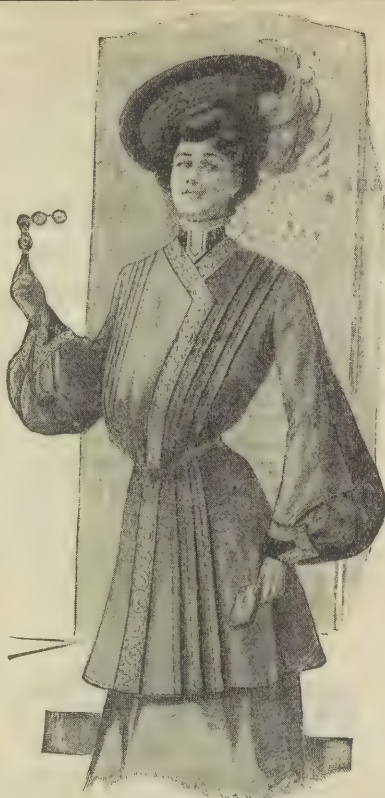
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Home Dressmaking

HINTS BY MAY MANTON.



A Smart Winter Coat.

Long coats tucked and made with large sleeves are among the notable features of the coming season and may be looked for both as separate wraps and parts of costumes. This one is suited to both purposes and to a wide range of materials, but is shown in nut brown broadcloth with cuffs of velvet and trimming of embroidery in rich Oriental colors. The tucks are laid on lines which give an exceedingly graceful effect and the flat finish at the neck is peculiarly admirable, inasmuch as it allows of wearing any of the fashionable ruffs or furs with ease and comfort. The sleeves are entirely new and among the best the season has to offer. To cut the coat will be required 3 1/2 yards 44 or 2 3/4 yards 52 inches wide. A May Manton pattern of 4521, sizes 32 to 40, will be mailed to any address by the Fashion Department of this paper on receipt of 10c.



A Smart Winter Costume.

Misses' Coat 4533 Misses' Seven Gored Skirt 4469 Long blouse coats, with plain, flared skirts make exceedingly fashionable winter costumes and are seen in a variety of materials. This one is eminently girlish and is made of military blue velvet with trimming of white cloth embroidered in Bulgarian colors. The coat includes a deep pointed cape, that is exceedingly becoming, and wide, full sleeves, while the skirt is cut in seven gores. The quantity of material required for the medium size is, for coat 5 1/2 yards 27, 3 yards 44 or 2 3/4 yards 52 inches wide; for skirt 5 yards 27, 2 5-8 yards 44 or 2 1/2 yards 52 inches wide. The coat pattern 4533 is cut in sizes for misses of 12, 14 and 16 years of age. The skirt pattern 4469 is cut in sizes for misses of 12, 14 and 16 years of age.



A Pretty Afternoon Gown.

Waist 4498

Skirt 4445

Pretty gowns of veiling, eolienne and like soft wool and silk and wool fabrics are much liked for afternoon wear, and are made elaborate with shirings and tucks. This one is of reseda veiling with trimming of silk bands held by fancy stitches. The waist shows the popular deep yoke with sleeve caps that give the broad shoulder line, and the skirt combines a full length front gore with shirred sides that are joined to a yoke.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is, for waist 5 yards 21, 4 yards 27 or 3 yards 44 inches wide with 11 yards of banding for trimming; for skirt 11 1/2 yards 21, 10 1/4 yards 27 or 7 1/2 yards 44 inches wide.

The waist pattern 4498 is cut in sizes for a 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inch bust measure.

The skirt pattern 4445 is cut in sizes for a 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 inch waist measure.



One of the Latest Designs.

Costumes made with plain coats and plaited skirts make a feature of the season and will be greatly worn for both walking and visiting. This stylish one is made of plum colored zibeline stitched with black, and shows one of the newest capes with the wide sleeves that are so necessary over the season's blouses. The skirt is laid in box plaits that conceal all seams, and which are allowed to flare below the knees. To cut the coat will be required 4 yards 44 or 3 1/2 yds. 52 in. wide; to cut the skirt 5 1/2 yds 44 or 5 yds. 52 in. wide. A May Manton pattern of above coat 4522, sizes 32 to 40, or of skirt 4489, sizes 22 to 30 will be mailed to any address by the Fashion Department of this paper on receipt of ten cents for each.

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The Girl Who Did.

(Continued from page six.)

etiquette to be late, and as this is my first ball I am anxious to create none but favorable impressions.'

He was very sorry he assured her, but his orders were imperative. He would detain her but a moment and she need have no anxiety about the number of her admirers. They would, he was sure, include the entire company.

"Even the next prettiest girl?" asked Peggy, archly, and the bright face in the big bonnet dimpled and grew pink. The gallant soldier in justice to the dimple and the blush in most courtly language said:

"'Tis only a matter of form, this business of searching, when we are assured of the sympathy of the parties detained. Now there can be no doubt—"

"Ah none at all Captain Brainbridge. Scarlet was ever more becoming to me than buff and blue."

"And so," he continued, "if you will pledge me your word that you have no dispatches of any kind in your baggage or upon your person, you may pass on, though I am robbed of the pleasantest vision my eyes have rested upon for many a day."

Her promise was an easy thing to give, of course. It could not be wrong to tell a falsehood for one's country, she reasoned, but her honest, truthful heart revolted at the idea.

Deception! Ah that is a part of this thing called war; but she had never heard of a Macey who broke a promise or told a lie. Something must be done. She must meet these keen, seaching eyes. A vague idea came to her. She lifted her hands, icy with nervousness, and fumbled with the ribbon strings that tied the bonnet under her round chin.

"You are most kind Captain Brainbridge, and should you ever be near our home, I trust you will do my father the honor of a call. Mercy! but this ribbon is knotted most fearfully. Of course there are no letters in my baggage. Here Dinah, hold this reticule." She tossed the bag into the woman's lap with seeming carelessness but her heart was beating furiously.

"Can you see where the tangle is?" turning to the Captain. "Ah! I thank you, sir. 'Tis quite undone and how cleverly you did it! And of a certainty there 'be no messages about my person."

"Then we may pass on? Many thanks—good day, sir."

It was over, it was over. The coach started, and rumbled on. The sound of the retreating horsemen died away and Peggy pressing the satin bag to her face ruined its delicate surface, with a flood of happy, victorious tears.

III.

Not even in her wildest dreams had Peggy ever realized the delights of that first ball. There was the flash of candles and the odor of flowers. There were guests in gay-colored brocades and silks.

Peggy, as beautiful as a rose and indeed not unlike one, danced with a heart overflowing with joy. The

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precious messages were delivered safely. The Secretary was indeed as handsome as cousin Lisbeth had reported him to be, and he danced two minuets with Peggy and escorted her to supper.

He is very grand to look upon and in some way reminds me of—and then she remembered that she had no name for that other handsome one. The greatest joy of all was from the fact that she would go back and report her success, and her heart sang exultantly all the way home.

As soon as she could escape unnoticed Peggy ran to the barn. There was no one working near so she made boldly for the loft.

"Peggy, Peggy, is it you?" she heard a guarded voice call. "Are you safe, little maid?" and just as on the previous day she was lifted from the ladder by two strong arms, and yet today she did not seem to mind so much. Then came questions and explanations and his eyes glowed as she told the events of the day before.

"Peggy you are the bravest, cleverest, most beautiful girl in the world," he cried; which statement was erroneous perhaps, but many enthusiastic young men have made the same mistake.

"At twilight Joel has promised to get me a horse, and I can get back into the lines tonight; but before I go I wish to know if, when Will comes home—when this cruel war is over—may I come, too? Will some one be glad to welcome me, sweetheart?"

Her sweet face was very rosy now; but some way from the look in her eyes he received the impression that someone would be always gladly waiting for his return.

Nature's Skill in Surgery.

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)

We all know that Nature has wonderful restorative powers, for there are few of us but have experienced some dread illness and eventually recovered entirely from its dire effects, but I think few of us would be willing to trust to Nature alone to heal a broken bone, without first soliciting the aid of a surgeon to set and bandage the injured member properly. I know of a case however, in which Nature was successful in surgery without the assistance of human intelligence.

Some time ago I secured some frogs for the table and when they were properly cooked and served I was very much surprised to find that one of the hind legs, that became my portion, had been broken at some period in the frog's lifetime and that Nature had completely restored the injured member to its former usefulness. The break was entirely covered with a callous or imperfect bony matter, under which the bone had firmly knit, making the limb as straight and strong, if not stronger, than the healthy one.

I took it to the Natural History Society, to which I belonged, and it was examined by several physicians who pronounced it to be a remarkable example of Nature's skill in surgery.

We were not able to understand, however, how the frog had managed to secure its food during the time the broken bone was mending, for everyone knows that in such cases, perfect quiet is absolutely necessary.

Ernest Volk.

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is the title of this valuable book—now in its twenty-fourth edition—which was written by me and which has recently had several additions made to it in the nature of treatise on proper diet, exercise, bathing, etc. It not only illustrates and describes all eye diseases and the methods adopted in their cure, but it gives much valuable information on the proper care of the eye as well as the proper care of the body generally and many little aids to perfect health, bodily vigor and mental happiness.

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